

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, February 14, 2013

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Bread shed

Garden bakery proving as popular as hot cakes

See page 10



Crazy For You

Love is in the air for a musical theatre group

What's On – page 27



Super Saddlers

Club is closing in fast on the leading pack

Sport – pages 47 & 48



Booming Scouts in new base proposal

A NEW £400,000 Scout headquarters in Walsall will include sports pitches, community facilities and extra room to cater for booming numbers.

The new base for the 3rd Streetly Scout Group is earmarked for the derelict site of a former tennis club in Aldridge Road.

It will include a five-a-side soccer pitch, six-a-side cricket pitch and basketball pitch, if plans are approved.

Under the proposal, a new 1,870sq ft building would cater for indoor sports, meetings and activities and could be used by the wider community.

Sold

It would have meeting halls, kitchen and storage. It would occupy a tenth of the 0.52 hectare site, with the rest of the land earmarked for recreational use and parking.

The old tennis club land was tied to the Farmer John's pub, adjoining the site, which is currently standing at about 130 youngsters.

The application was put forward because it needs a larger HQ to cope with a fast-growing membership, which is currently standing at about 130 youngsters.

The group, which also includes Beavers, Cubs and a marching band, has been looking for a permanent home for eight years.

£13k spent on bin blitz

MORE than £13,000 was spent on the first six weeks of a zero-tolerance recycling crackdown in Walsall that saw almost 27,000 bins go unemptied.

Controversial new rules saw binmen ordered not to take away green recycling bins containing the "wrong" type of rubbish.

A total of 26,892 bins were not emptied from November 19 to January 4 as a result.

The council also spent £13,316 on the campaign in that time. The figures are released under the Freedom of Information Act.

HOSPITAL CARE IS UNDER SCRUTINY

Report by Catherine Dalton

HEALTH watchdogs have been working closely with Walsall Manor Hospital to make sure it offers good care in the wake of the Stafford Hospital scandal.

Walsall Council's health scrutiny panel is holding its own probe into death rates at the Pleck Road hospital. Marco Longhi, chairman of the scrutiny panel, said the findings of last week's public inquiry report into Stafford Hospital may have "troubled" some residents in Walsall.

It came days after it emerged the Manor had seen a 30 per cent rise in patients from Staffordshire since the closure of Stafford's A&E department overnight.

In his report on the failings of Stafford Hospital, Robert Francis QC found systematic failings at every level had allowed poor standards of care to continue. Up to 1,200 people are said to have died there unnecessarily between 2005 and 2008. Mr Francis outlined a series of 290 recommendations to improve the NHS.

Manor Hospital bosses are looking at the 1,800 page report. Walsall Council revealed the findings of an investigation into the hospital's death rates was due on March 12.

Assurances

The Doctor Foster Hospital guide 2012, released last December, revealed the hospital had a higher than average hospital standardised mortality rate. It recorded a level of 117 compared to an expected level of 100, although health chiefs insist the number has been below the national average since.

Councillor Longhi said: "Walsall residents need to have confidence that their hospital is providing good care."

"There has been an improvement in mortality rates at the Manor over the past 12 months but before that the figures have been higher than those in comparable hospitals. This concern prompted us to commission an independent report by consultants Mott Macdonald and experts are currently analysing the mortality rates and work being done by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust to address them."

The panel is also seeking the views of the Clinical Commissioning Group, which manages the contract for the Manor Hospital and is responsible for its performance.

Richard Kirby, chief executive of Walsall Manor Hospital, said the matter was taken very seriously and bosses had been working hard to reduce mortality rates. He added: "We continue to work closely with the council to ensure that we maintain high levels of quality and safety for our patients."

Players raise pulse awareness



Know Your Pulse nurse Jayne Lewis with midfielder Sam Mantom at Walsall FC

WALSALL FC players have added their support to a health push to get people to check their pulses. It is one of the most effective ways of identifying potentially abnormal heart rhythms.

The Cardiac Arrhythmia Service will be working with the club to raise awareness. Events have been launched highlighting the Know Your Pulse campaign.

Footballer Fabrice Muamba, who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest on the pitch, is backing the campaign. Walsall skipper Andy Butler said: "We are delighted to give our support to such a worthy cause."

Healthcare staff will be answering questions at the Manor Hospital today (Thursday) and the cardiac team will be at Banks's Stadium on Saturday before the game.

Mast will stay after defeat in court case

A PHONE mast will remain in Pheasey after Walsall Council lost a landmark case in the Court of Appeal.

More than 300 residents signed a petition for the removal of the 45ft mast, put in place in Waverley Avenue by phone giants O2 and Vodafone.

The Court of Appeal ruled the mast could stay in place in a case which has been seen as a test case by local authorities in dispute with mobile phone companies.

But the decision has been criticised by angry councillors who have deemed it as "morally reprehensible".

Roughshod

Regeneration chief councillor Adrian Andrew said: "The council did not want this, residents did not want this and local councillors did not want this but we have all been 'ridden roughshod over'."

Walsall Council initially launched legal action claiming the mast went ahead despite plans being refused.

They said the refusal had been posted on the council website and sent to Vodafone 11 days before the 56-day deadline for a decision. But phone operators said they had not received it.

Council leader Mike Bird said he was "absolutely furious" over the decision.

The mast was put up by the phone companies around 18 months ago.

Horses stray on to roads

HORSES have been escaping fields in Walsall prompting police to step in to track down owners in order that fencing is fixed.

Officers say there has been a rise in calls about horses wandering from land in Rushall and Shelfield and on to the highway.

The Rushall and Shelfield neighbourhood beat team said they were working to identify the landowners.

It is believed the horses are escaping from fields where there is poor fencing that needs repairs.

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Drug farm 'gardener' was smuggled into the UK

A 35-year-old illegal immigrant found at a Darlaston drug factory, which was capable of producing £225,000 worth of cannabis a year, has been jailed for eight months.

Hoang Hoang was alone at the property in Mill Street when police swooped on October 3, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

They discovered 812 'skunk' plants growing in six rooms. The house had been targeted after officers detected the smell of drugs as they passed on foot patrol earlier.

Hoang said he had only been there for 11 days

and was acting as a 'gardener' after being smuggled into the UK the previous year.

Prosecutor Mr Howard Searle said: "The plants under cultivation could produce £88,000 worth of drugs and with several crops a year were capable of an annual yield valued at £225,000."

Deported

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said father-of-two Hoang had left his wife and family behind in Vietnam where they lived in poverty.

He had come to the UK illegally last year after being promised work.

Mann said: "He was an underling carrying out the orders of others under strict conditions.

"He would welcome the opportunity to return to his homeland."

Hoang admitted being concerned in the production of cannabis between September 21 and October 4. He was sent to prison by Judge Michael Challinor who said: "You played a minor role and will be deported on completion of the sentence."

Pensioners launch loo protest petition

A PETITION is being drawn up against a controversial 20p charge to use public toilets at Walsall's main bus station.

Walsall Pensioners' Convention is campaigning against the move, which they claim will affect the elderly more than any other group.

Passenger transport authority Centro said the new charge follows a £80,000 revamp of St Paul's bus station toilets. They claim it will bring the facilities in line with Wolverhampton and Stourbridge. Centro said the money would be ploughed back into keeping the toilets clean, well-stocked and to reduce anti-social behaviour.

But Peter Last, chairman of Walsall Pensioners' Convention, said the charge had proved unpopular.

"A lot of pensioners like to use the toilets before getting on the bus because otherwise it can be a long time to wait and you end up having to cross your legs," he said.

"This hits elderly people more than the younger generations. We are getting a petition up and running and deciding what else we might want to do."

Scandal

"Some of our members suggested we should all go to Centro's headquarters and ask to use those toilets. Members are up in arms."

Walsall Pensioners' Convention discussed the issue as part of their recent meeting.

The move has also been criticised by some shoppers and councillors, including Pete Smith who branded it a 'scandal'.

He raised concerns that the charge, which will be introduced via turnstiles at the toilet doors, would lead to unhygienic conditions at the bus station.

The news comes just months after Walsall Council unveiled plans to close public toilets in Pelsall, Rushall, Willenhall, Aldridge, Brownhills and Blakenall Heath in a bid to save £120,000.

School's reputation is growing



Planting trees are Junior Sabanda, Chloe Goode, Mehak Muzammil and Aaqib Shah

AROUND 500 trees have been planted at a Walsall school after it won a bid to become a Forest School.

The trees will create an outdoor learning space for the children at Birchills C of E Community Primary School after pupils rolled up their sleeves to get involved in the planting at the Farringdon Street school.

A school spokesman said the planting rep-

resents another part of the school's improvements. The school was placed in special measures by Ofsted in May 2012 but is making rapid strides forward and had a successful visit by Ofsted inspectors in November 2012.

Forest schools are hailed as a classroom without walls and will create a space for children to learn in the great outdoors.

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Councillor rejects an increased allowance

A CONSERVATIVE councillor at Walsall has turned down a controversial increase in allowances.

Councillor Rose Martin, who represents the Paddock ward, said she will not take the increase "due to financial pressures on the council purse".

Senior councillors in Walsall recently voted to receive an increase in allowances worth almost £55,000 in April.

It will see the leader of the council get a £4,494 increase, the deputy leader will more than double from £8,302 to £17,534 and eight other cabinet members will increase from £8,302 to £13,425.

Rise

The basic allowance for councillors will also rise from £10,378 to £10,481, while scrutiny panel chairs will get £8,383 instead of £8,302.

Councillor Rose Martin, who is vice chairman of the children and young peoples scrutiny and performance panel, said: "Due to financial pressures on the council purse at a time when Walsall residents are feeling the pressure of this recession, I have informed chief executive Mr Paul Sheehan on January 9 I will not be accepting this increase in April."

Ian Shires, cabinet member for communities, has already said he will not be accepting the extra £5,123 he is entitled to for his role.

Club's goal is to open all its new pitches

THE biggest amateur football club in the region is on target to raise £11,000 so its new pitches can open in time for next season.

Wyreley Juniors FC needs to raise the cash so its £1.13 million revamped base in Long Lane, Great Wyreley, can become fully operational. At the moment, none of the new pitches are in use.

The club, which has 700 players, raised £1,000 at the end of January with a beer festival.

A planned climb of Ben Nevis on May 5 is expected to raise £6,000.

The clubhouse at the ground was officially opened by Sir Trevor Brooking for social events last September.

NEWS

NEWS
in brief

Suspended prison term for protester

A MAN has been given a suspended jail term and banned from demonstrations for four years after an incident at an EDL march. Peter Jelley, of Prescott Close, Shrewsbury, was caught on CCTV gesturing and shouting at police in Walsall.

The 24-year-old, who admitted a public order offence, was sentenced to 20 weeks in custody suspended for a year given a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order, ordered to do 250 hours unpaid work, and go to an adult attendance centre for 36 hours. He was also ordered to pay £80 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

Banqueting suite gets a green light

JOBS will be created in Willenhall after plans to transform a former leisure centre into a banqueting suite got the go-ahead.

Up to 40 jobs will be created at the Bath Street centre, which closed in 2010. Just one objection was lodged against plans to expand the building.

Owner Raj Kumar hopes to open by August.

The only objection was submitted over fears about a lack of parking but council officers said proposed parking layout changes were acceptable.

Family cycle ride to cover 12 miles

ON Saturday a family cycle ride will be starting from South Shore Cafe at Chasewater Country Park (A5 entrance) from 9.30 am.

The CTC Walsall Family Cycling Group event will cover a distance of around 12 miles with a breakfast/coffee stop.

Contact Dave on 07866 028154 for details.

Alpine talk is on the agenda at meeting

WALSALL Fuchia and Flower Society holds its monthly meeting next Monday, February 18. It takes place at Pelsall Labour Club, Church Road, from 7.30pm.

It will feature Dr John Page talking about alpines. For more details, call (01922) 633696.

Ramblers are to climb Bredon Hill

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Eckington and Bredon Hill, near Pershore, for a nine-mile walk with one steep climb on Sunday.

Call 0121 4407929 for details.

Squalor at home made officer sick



Jailed – Adrian Stanton

A COUPLE have pleaded guilty to the ill-treatment and neglect of their children after their Walsall home was found in a state of squalor.

A police officer was physically sick after being sent to search the house.

As well as a terrible smell, there were no proper sleeping arrangements for the children, out-of-date food in the kitchen and bannisters hanging off the wall, magistrates were told.

Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said concerns were raised by a member of staff at a nursery one of the children was attending.

Police were called to the address of the family, who cannot be named for legal reasons. The children are no longer living at the address.

The parents, in their 20s, pleaded guilty to charges relating to neglect of a child.

The hearing was told there had been no physical injuries to the children.

Miss Stephanie Brownless, defending, said they had no previous convictions and had been hit by a tragedy. The case was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentencing.

Good causes can get more from Lottery

A TOTAL of £1.2 million of National Lottery funding was awarded to good causes in Walsall in the past year.

Fifty-nine grants were handed out across the town to arts, sports and community groups.

Among the Walsall projects to receive lottery cash in Walsall in 2012 were Manor Farm Community Association, which got £200,000 to support older people who are in need.

Families

Walsall Deaf Peoples Centre got almost £10,000 to install a new electrical system and Home Start Walsall was given £300,000 to help families facing isolation, mental health or behavioural issues.

Projects which have received funding in the past 18 years can now also bid for national recognition for their work under the National Lottery Awards.

Winners will each get £2,000 cash and will be invited to a star-studded ceremony on BBC TV later this year.

To nominate a project, visit www.nationallotteryawards.org.uk

Bungling burglars jailed for museum raid

TWO bungling burglars from Walsall who stole Chinese artefacts worth £2 million from a prestigious university museum – but then could not find where they had hidden them – have been given lengthy jail sentences.

Lee Wildman, aged 36, was jailed for nine years and Adrian Stanton, 33, was handed an eight-year term for conspiring to burgle Durham University's Oriental Museum last Easter.

The pair had planned the break-in, choosing the night before Good Friday when the campus was quiet, using cloned number plates and chiselling a

hole through a brick wall to get in and out quickly.

From the display cabinets, they picked out two Qing dynasty items – a 1769 jade bowl and a porcelain figurine – worth up to £2 million.

Flawed

But their plan was flawed because after hiding the items on wasteland, Wildman could not find them when he returned two days later. He was seen by a witness searching the plot, and speaking in an agitated manner on his mobile, as the light faded.

Judge Christopher Prince said "There were elements towards the end that reduced the plan to complete farce."

The artefacts were later recovered after a finger-tip search.

Weeks before, Wildman, of Remington Road, Beechdale, and Stanton, of Telford Road, had received suspended sentences for a break-in at an amusement arcade in Rhyl.

On that occasion police stopped their car on the way back to the Midlands, and found to have more than £10,000 in coins.



Jailed – Lee Wildman

Market traders fear car accident danger

STALLHOLDERS have taken to creating their own blockades as they bid to stop cars travelling through the centre of Willenhall market.

Up to 10 cars are said to be illegally driving through Willenhall on market days. Some market traders are now having to use crates to create a blockade in Market Place.

They say cars passing through the busy town centre on market days are putting both lives and livelihoods at risk.

In June last year, Walsall Council announced there would be a total ban on cars driving through the centre of town, with new signs put up to allow police to take stricter action on drivers who flout the rules.

But no signs have yet been installed and motorists are still driving through on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Willenhall South ward representative Councillor Diane Coughlan said traders had come up with a plan for what they wanted included in the traffic regulations following consultation in 2011.

Crates

"But the signs have still not been done and there is still a problem with people driving through the town centre," she said. "Some traders have even put crates in the middle of the road to stop cars going through."

She feared the situation was "an accident waiting to happen".

"It has come to something when the traders are having to block the road themselves," she added.

Cars are said to be travelling from the Wolverhampton Street direction into the town centre.

Upon realising their error, some are then trying to turn around within the small space.

Teacher and rugby club player dies

A TEACHER who was a former Walsall rugby player has died after a heart attack.

Tony Zaidel, senior leader and sports co-ordinator at The Meadows Sports College in Oldbury, was aged 52. Staff raised the alarm after he failed to turn up to work.

Police broke into Mr Zaidel's home in Halesowen and found him dead.

Paying tribute, The Meadows Sports College principal Gordon Phillips said: "We are all numb with shock. Tony was one of my most loyal members of staff."

Mr Zaidel worked at The Meadows for five years. He previously worked at Stuart Bathurst Catholic School in Walsall for more than ten years.

Mr Zaidel, a prop forward, played nine first-team games for Walsall Rugby Club in the early 1990s.

End of the road for Parry's



Managing Director Dave Parry at the wheel of a Parry's coach

FOR 40 years the coaches of Parry's International have carried holidaymakers from the Black Country and Staffordshire on tours.

But this year will be the last that Parry's distinctive luxury coaches, proudly bearing a British lion symbol, will operate. Owner Dave Parry last week announced to his loyal team of 35 employees that the business was to shut.

The last trips that will operate will be the popular Christmas and New Year hotel breaks that have been a big money earner for the business in recent years. Destinations include Blackpool, The Isle of Wight and York with Hogmanay breaks in Scotland.

Mr Parry hopes it will be a year of celebration and is planning a farewell day to give some of his loyal customers who have travelled with Parry's over decades a chance to say goodbye.

The firm still expects to carry more than 25,000 people in its final year of operation with Austria, Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Holland included in its final programme.

Awards

The coach tour specialist was started in 1973 by then Wolves speedway manager Dave Parry. Wednesfield-born Mr Parry, who was also a rider for the team, moved to Cheslyn Hay at the age of 20 and started up his business there.

It grew quickly with pick up points including Walsall. It moved to its purpose-built base at Landywood Green 14 years ago. Parry's won a series of industry awards and has built up one of the most modern coach fleets in the country with annual turnover of £5 million. Last year it won an award for having the safest and most luxurious coaches in the UK in the Coach of the Year Awards. It currently has 11 luxury touring coaches in its 15-vehicle fleet. Another coach will be arriving in March.

Mr Parry said: "The business has been my life, but it has got more difficult every year in recent years to run it and very hard work to make a profit."

There is still the chance of a buyer coming in, but at this stage nothing has been agreed.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE best part of the unearthing of Richard III's bones in a Leicester car park is that the team began digging in a car space reserved with the letter R. Dig under R and you find Richard. The next hunt for royal bones may be in Winchester where the remains of Alfred the Great are supposed to lie. There must be a great temptation to start searching for the letters AG.

□□□□□□□□

THANKS for the bulging postbag on the subject of films which have made audiences spontaneously cheer. Les Misérables and The Sting are clear front-runners.

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ONE reader makes a good point about the first time she saw Jaws (1975) when the giant shark suddenly erupted from the water and the whole audience applauded wildly. She says the unconvincing rubber shark which terrified us so satisfactorily in 1975 is almost laughable today, and are we becoming hardened to horror? She's right. Can you name a single classic horror movie that still frightens us?

□□□□□□□□

AS SHE took Australian citizenship, that great British actress Miriam Margolyes declared: "I don't like class distinction and there is far too much of that in England." Maybe there is. But class distinction, in all its infuriating silliness, is the very bedrock of the English sense of humour. Margolyes has made a very good living exploiting it, all the way from Ladies in Lavender to Jam & Jerusalem, not forgetting her glorious Queen Victoria in the Blackadder Christmas Special. Pity she has to bite the hand that fed her so well.

□□□□□□□□

TALKING of class, as the world celebrates the 200th anniversary of Pride and Prejudice, can any modern work hope to challenge it as the ultimate dissection of the English class system? Yes, indeed. Look no further than Walmington-on-Sea. The episode in this week's BBC2 repeat, The Honourable Man, with Mainwaring seething at the news that his sergeant has become The Honourable Arthur Wilson was as keenly observed as anything Jane Austen wrote and arguably the funniest of all the Dad's Army stories.

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ONE of the scariest Shakespearian roles for any actress is Hermione, the queen in The Winter's Tale who pretends to be a statue. The actress playing Hermione must keep absolutely stock-still for several minutes. In the long history of the theatre there must have been Hermiones who got cramp, had a fit of the giggles, sneezed, had hiccups or broke wind. The statue scene is as tense for the audience as it is for the cast. In the latest RSC production at Stratford, Hermione is played by Tara Fitzgerald, probably best remembered as the flugelhorn-playing love interest in the movie Brassed Off (1996). On press night at Stratford she was rock-solid perfect, proving you can give a truly moving performance while not moving at all.

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IF YOU'RE left wondering whether any issue could cause the Tory party more internal strife and pave the way for electoral defeat than same-sex marriage, it would surely be an attempt to lift the ban on foxhunting. They're working on it.

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CHRIS Huhne's ex-wife Vicky Pryce used the old law on "marital coercion" in her defence to a charge of perverting the course of justice. This rare defence dates from the 1925 Criminal Justice Act and can be used only by married women. When gay marriages become legal, all sorts of changes will have to be made to English law. The scrapping of "marital coercion" must surely be one of the first.

□□□□□□□□

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Bus pass price is slashed

THE cost of a bus pass in the West Midlands is to be cut by up to £1.60 per week.

People who have one of Centro's nBus passes will now also be able to use them in Staffordshire as well as the Black Country and Birmingham.

The changes have been brought in by the transport authority following a review with different bus companies.

Most existing nBus passes will be reduced in price from April including an adult one-week pass which will cost £16.80 rather than £18.40 and an adult four-week pass which will be £60 rather than £62.

While the previous passes were accepted by 35 different bus companies, they were valid only within the West Midlands metropolitan area.

But passengers will be able to use the new pass in areas in Staffordshire including Codswall, Bilbrook, Perton, Pattingham, Wombourne, Himley, Swindon, Kinver and Little Aston.

Councillor Kath Hartley, Centro's vice-chairman, said: "At a time when the cost of living seems to be going through the roof – especially items such as food and petrol – it's great to see the price of something as important as bus travel actually coming down."

Value

"These nBus passes, which can be used on all services regardless of which bus company runs the service, will now offer even greater value for money."

The move, approved at a meeting of the author-

ity last week, comes after the price of a single fare on National Express West Midlands buses went up by 10p to £2 at the start of the year.

A wider range of nBus products will be launched by Centro on its new Swift smartcard which is being rolled out across the region.

The smartcard allows people to pre-pay for their travel, then swipe it over a sensor on a bus, in a similar way to London's Oyster card.

All nBus passes will be available on Swift including new products such as nBus passes specifically for the Black Country which are planned to be even cheaper.

There will also be a range of off-peak and student passes as well as ones that can be used on the Metro tram route.

Prison for addict who rammed a patrol car

A DRUG addict from Walsall who was banned from driving has been jailed for 15 months after he reversed into a police patrol car twice as officers were trying to stop his vehicle.

After the first collision, the officers followed Patrick Hickey into a dead-end street where he once again rammed their car before driving away. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Batons

The 45-year-old finally abandoned the Honda Accord and ran off but he was caught by the officers who, because he was aggressive, had to use their batons.

Miss Helena Miller, prosecuting, said it was the seventh time Hickey had been caught driving while banned.

After his arrest he refused to provide the officers with a blood sample for analysis. She told the court that Hickey, of Mill Lane, also had previous convictions for driving dangerously and with excess alcohol.

Hickey pleaded guilty to driving dangerously, while disqualified, failing to provide the blood sample and having no insurance. He was further banned from driving for three years.

Judge Michael Challinor told him he had a "lamentable" record for driving offences.

Hindu plans for worship put on hold

A DECISION on whether a Hindu place of worship can be set up at a former Willenhall pub has been put on hold by planners, for investigations into traffic and parking concerns.

If the plans get the go-ahead, the former Long Acres pub in Willowways Lane would be used as a community base for meditation and prayer.

Empty

The pub has been empty for three years after losing its licence in 2010.

The proposals had been earmarked for approval before a Wolverhampton City Council planning committee meeting this week.

But after 87 more objections were sent by residents, bosses agreed to defer the decision to make a site visit.

Club going swimmingly



In synch – Walsall Synchronised Swimming Club have seen their numbers double at the Gala Baths

A SYNCHRONISED swimming club that has really made a splash on television has seen its membership double since April.

Walsall Synchronised Swimming Club at Walsall Gala Baths, in Tower Street, has been a has been making waves since its coach Zoe Cooper appeared on Britain's Got Talent and Splash with Tom Daley.

Head coach Amy Baker, who has trained at the club since she was nine, says she was delighted to see the group doing so well.

Amy, 29, of Hilton Road, Featherstone, said: "Our member Zoe Cooper made it to the finals of Britain's Got Talent last year and because that raised the profile of the club, along with her performances on Splash, I've not needed to actively recruit at all over the last 12 months.

"We've always been a junior club but we've had so many requests from adults over the past few months, we're now running an eight-week trial session. If it's successful, then we'll make it a recreational group where people can come each week."

The club, which is run entirely by volunteers, teaches around 80 children in five sessions per week. For details email amylouisebaker@hotmail.co.uk.



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Protests on £12m scheme rejected

PLANS for a £12 million development to build a care home, GP surgery and supermarket near Willenhall have been approved by Wolverhampton city council bosses, despite objections from Walsall.

Heanton Housing Association will build the development in Portobello, despite one councillor saying he was "appalled" and Walsall Council officially objecting.

The decision on whether to grant planning approval for the two-site scheme, which includes a 66-bedroom care home, food store, surgery, pharmacy and supermarket, had been deferred, to ask the applicant to include housing as part of the project.

The developer said it had considered housing but it would not be viable to do so.

Declined

It declined to amend its original application, but it was still approved by Wolverhampton planning bosses.

Councillor Keith Inston said: "I'm quite frankly appalled at the response of the applicant. Why now is it not suitable for housing?"

Councillor Keith Harman Bangar also objected to approval being granted. He said: "The fact Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council has not withdrawn its objection is a concern to me."

However, Councillor John Rowley said: "This is a gateway site to Wolverhampton. I want to see the fulfilment of regeneration projects."

Bright outlook at HomeServe

HOME repairs giant HomeServe is developing new ways of building up customer numbers, including through the internet and call centres.

The Walsall-based group says that it expects customer numbers in the UK to be around 2.25 million by the end of the current financial year and that its retention rate has increased slightly in the first half of the year.

In America customer numbers will be more than 20 per cent up by the end of the year.

HomeServe expects its adjusted profit before tax for the year to the end of March to be between £102.9m and £109.4m.

Driver made less than £2,000 from crimes

THE fastest getaway driver caught in the UK made less than £2,000 from a five-month crime spree across the region, including Walsall.

Ben Westwood's benefit from the crimes totalled just £1,969.22p Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

This included the £69.22p benefits payment the 33-year-old had collected on the day he was arrested.

The remaining £1,900 was recovered from his home in Woden Road, Wednesfield.

A further £2,170 cash found at the same address belonged to his mother, a Proceeds of Crime hearing was told earlier this month.

Prosecutor Stefan Kolodynski explained a receipt proved the money came from the sale of her jewellery to a pawnbrokers. Recorder Andrew Smith QC gave police 28 days to transfer the money to Proceeds of Crime staff.

Helicopter

Westwood is serving a nine-year sentence following his arrest after a 65-mile police chase during which he drove at 180 mph while outpacing the pursuing police helicopter on the M6 between Wolverhampton and Stafford.

The jobless motor trader, who was behind the wheel of a stolen specially modified £85,000 Audi RS5, then doubled back and dumped the car in

Pickering Road, Wednesfield, before fleeing to a nearby flat where he was found hiding.

The chase started after a failed bid by a gang to burn open an ATM cash machine holding £24,000 on the forecourt of a Murco garage on Warstones Road, Penn on January 31 last year.

The acceleration of the stolen Audi had allowed him to repeatedly escape police raiding shops in Stafford, Stoke, Cannock, Rugeley, Wednesfield, Worcester, Bentley Bridge, Walsall, Stourport and Market Drayton.

Westwood was jailed in August last year after being found guilty of conspiracy to steal and dangerous driving.



Jailed - Ben Westwood

NEWS in brief

More than 50 new trees at woodland

TWO trees will be planted for each one felled at a popular beauty spot under restoration work.

Around 25 old and diseased horse chestnut trees at Merriens Wood Local Nature Reserve will be felled, to be replaced with 56 heavy standard sweet chestnuts at the picturesque site off Chapel Lane.

Work at the wood, near the border with Great Barr, is being part-funded through the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area scheme. Residents will be involved in the project with Walsall Conservation Volunteers and the Friends of Merriens Wood.

No left turn while investigation done

MOTORISTS will face a week of diversions during investigation work taking place for the proposed new multi-million pound network in Darlaston.

There will be no left turn from Bescot Road into Wallows Lane whilst ground investigations take place between Monday and Friday, February 18 to 22.

The work will be carried out between 9.30am and 4pm.

Stroke group to get shop backing

THE Original Factory Shop in Walsall Wood is to make a difference to the Stroke Support Group after it was chosen by visitors to the department store's Facebook page as its charity partner for 2013.

A programme of fundraising activity will soon be planned, with a minimum target of £500 to be raised.

College celebrates different cultures

WALSALL College has been taking part in World Culture Week, an annual celebration of the global mix of students that attend the college. Fashion, Art and Design students created a costumes inspired by countries, including Japan, Scotland and Spain.

Mayor is guest at Lions' anniversary

MAYOR and Mayoress of Walsall, Dennis and Kate Anson will attend the Walsall Lions Club's Charter Anniversary dinner and dance at The County hotel, in Birmingham Road, Walsall, on Saturday night.

Trial scheme aims to speed up road work

A NEW trial to speed up pothole and road repairs is being carried out in Walsall in a bid to improve carriageways across the borough.

The number of reported potholes has increased this month compared to the same period last year due to the recent snow and frost. But highways bosses said it was only a "slight increase" thanks to longer lasting repairs being carried out on roads instead of temporary fixes.

The council is now working with Tarmac on a trial to speed up the repair of potholes. The smaller paving machine method shortens working time by as much as weeks and gives a better surface quality.

While the road is closed, other work can be carried out in the street such as gully cleansing, road-markings and street nameplates.

There were 86 potholes reported throughout January compared to 69 in the same month in 2012.

The authority is submitting a bid to the Government for extra funding for more works to be carried out on routes throughout the town.

Transport boss Councillor Tom Ansill said: "With this new trial, we're looking at new ways to co-ordinate repairs so all the people who are needed are there on the same day or just a few days."

"The new processes that Tarmac and Walsall Council are using also mean that repairs are much longer lasting, so we don't have to keep going back to do the same work again. We changed our pothole repair regime a couple of years ago and our permanent repairs are now holding up much better than they previously were."

Plans for Bloxwich have now been submitted to Walsall Council. It includes a six-lane 25 metre swimming pool.

For Bloxwich have now been submitted to Walsall Council. It includes a six-lane 25 metre swimming pool.

Join the race, urges Donna



Survivor Donna Coates and her daughter Charlotte launch the Race for Life campaign in the Black Country

A MOTHER who survived breast cancer has launched this year's Race for Life campaign. Donna Coates, of Walsall, is urging women to join the battle against cancer by signing up for one of 10 events in the West Midlands.

The 45-year-old completed last year's Race for Life with her 16-year-old daughter Charlotte, and hopes to take part in the Walsall event this year. Mrs Coates, who works for the West Bromwich Building Society, was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2012.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to be

able to manage Race for Life last year as I had to have a series of operations while undergoing reconstruction, but Charlotte egged me on while my younger daughter Rebecca and my husband Chris cheered us round the course," she said.

Race for Life events will be held in Walsall Arboretum at 11am on May 19, at 11am at Sutton Park in Sutton Coldfield on June 6, and at Wolverhampton's West Park on June 19 at 7pm.

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NEWS

Cocaine plot crook only has to pay back £983

A BUSINESSMAN involved in a bid to smuggle £1.7 million worth of cocaine into the UK has been ordered to pay back just £983.

That was all that could be found when forensic accountants scoured the books of Lionel Malinga.

The father-of-three, aged 33, is currently serving eight years in jail after the drugs were discovered hidden in a consignment of 20,000 bottles of soft drink delivered to Ice Age Supplies, his business based at an industrial unit in Church Road, Darlaston.

Malinga, from Windsor Road, West Bromwich, set up the firm to bring cars and foodstuffs into the country but turned to crime when that trade dried up.

Smuggled

At a Proceeds of Crime hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, prosecutor Adrian Chaplin said it was agreed that the defendant had derived more than £770,000 benefit from crime over six years, during which £57,000 had passed through the bank account of his wife.

Mr Tarlowchan Dubb, defending, accepted the benefit and repayment figures provided by the prosecution.

The drugs were smuggled by sea from Trinidad and Tobago to Felixstowe where they were intercepted by customs and police officers on December 2, 2011. They found 11 packages of cocaine weighing almost nine kilograms with a wholesale value of £360,000 that would have fetched up to £1.68m on the street, the court heard.

Malinga admitted conspiracy to smuggle cocaine. He was given six months to repay £983 or face a further 28 days behind bars. He is currently not due for release before December 2015.

Half million staff bill

MORE than half a million pounds was spent on supply teachers in Walsall in just the first term of the school year.

The cash was spent on bringing in temporary workers for schools and nurseries across the borough last September to December. The money was used to cover staff sickness absence and maternity leave.

The £550,000 expenditure ranged from £32,502 by St Francis of Assisi in Aldridge to £169.99 at Mossley JMI. More than 19 schools did not pay any extra money on supply staff.

Poetry to help charities



Walsall poet laureate and solicitor, Ian Henery, is aiding the Mayor of Walsall's charities with his book *Batman Where Are You?*

A SOLICITOR from Walsall has swapped legal jargon for poetry as he releases his latest book.

Walsall's official poet laureate Ian Henery is raising money for two good causes with his book *Batman, Where Are You?* Cash raised from sales of the poetry book will go to the Mayor of Walsall's charities and also

to the Sutton Coldfield Scout Gang show. Father-of-four Mr Henery, who runs a law practice in Willenhall, is enjoying his second term as Walsall's official poet laureate.

Batman, Where Are You? is for sale for £4.99 and can be bought by visiting the website at www.thynkspublications.co.uk

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.'

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Walsall and the surrounding area and Brian

is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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MBE celebration



Dorothy Buchanan MBE with Blue Coat Infants pupils
TWO schools in Walsall held celebrations in tribute to their chair of governors who has been awarded an MBE.

Dorothy Buchanan, who serves Blue Coat CofE Junior and Infant Schools, was named in the New Year's Honours.

It was in recognition of her services to education having looked after thousands of children in a number of schools as a teacher, headteacher and governor.

Miss Buchanan was invited to a special celebration assembly at the schools during which the 650 children congratulated her. She said: "It is an amazing honour and privilege to receive such a wonderful award."

Lawyers get quality mark

A FIRM of solicitors, Walsall has been recognised with the law management quality mark from the Law Society.

QualitySolicitors CMHT secured Lexcel accreditation for the legal profession. To gain the status, the team completed a rigorous assessment process. Partner Valerie Cox said: "While we are proud to have secured Lexcel, it is our clients and staff who are the main beneficiaries. Everyone at each of our offices has been rightly proud of what they have achieved."

The company has offices in Bradford Street, Walsall, Anchor Road, in Aldridge and High Street, Brownhills.

Imposter in bid to trick driving test invigilators

A MAN tried to dupe the DVLA when he arranged for someone else to take the theory section of the driving exam on his behalf, a court heard.

Manjit Singh told the unknown man to take the test and provided him with his own driving photocard and provisional licence to carry out the scam. But workers at the centre started to become suspicious when they noticed the picture on the card did not look like the man who had arrived to take the exam, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Singh had pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud by dishonestly making a false representation, but a jury took just 39 minutes to convict him.

Disqualified

Prosecutor Mr Shane Crawford told the hearing: "Manjit Singh had a full driving licence but had been disqualified and that meant he had to do the theory and practical test all over again.

"What occurred on July 16, 2010, was that he arranged for another person to go along and do the theory test for him."

Mr Crawford said invigilators at the test centre in Stoke had not been convinced that the person arrived to take the test was the same person in the photocard that was handed in.

Singh, aged 39, of Whitehouse Crescent, Ashmore Park, claimed he had asked the man to arrange the test on his behalf after meeting him at a local temple, but that he did not expect him to take the test on his behalf.

Mr Crawford described his account as "untrue, fantastical and nonsense". He added that two other people had pleaded guilty to their part in the conspiracy, explaining that the same credit card was used to book other tests.

Singh and the two other men will be sentenced at a later date.

by Shaun Jepson

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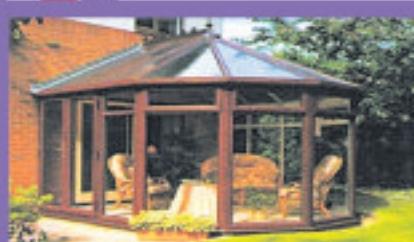


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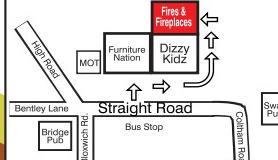


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NEWS

Officers win awards for police initiatives

POLICE from Walsall and across the region have won awards for community service and going that extra mile.

Six of the region's officers were among 14 to be handed gongs during the first West Midlands Police Diamond Awards ceremony, held recently at Birmingham's Botanical Gardens, in Edgbaston.

Wolverhampton Pc Joe Trusselle won the Police Officer of the Year Award after getting involved in community events over the last year and leading the investigation into attacks on walkers along canal towpaths in the city.

A member of the Wolverhampton South West team, he helped secure funding for a CCTV van to record incidents of anti-social behaviour. He also organised a fun day at West Park, which attracted more than 2,000 people.

Community

Inspector Toni Naylor picked up the Leading Change Award after coming up with new budgeting ideas to save money, while she continued her daily role as inspector for the Offender Management team in Wolverhampton.

Pc Sarah Ruby-Astin from the Counter Terrorist Unit won the Driving Diversity Award for her work in improving community relations and engaging with minority communities in Wolverhampton.

Walsall Pc Kevin Potts, from the Willenhall South neighbourhood policing team, won the Policing in Partnership Award for helping reduce metal theft by 49 per cent across the town.

As part of Operation Steel he produced a supervisor handbook, a neighbourhood guide and made links with every scrap dealer in the area.

The Putting the Public First Award went to PCSOs Jodi Martin and Sukinder Lally, from the Willenhall South neighbourhood policing team, for helping a woman who was being abused at home by her husband.



Henry Yap presents the award for putting the public first to Willenhall PCSOs Sukinder Lally and Jody Martin



Phil Pemble gives the partnership award to Willenhall Pc Kevin Potts

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NEWS

It's all systems dough at garden shed bakery

A BAKERY has been launched selling homemade bread from a garden shed in Walsall.

single week, those that come once a month, odd customers that come once or twice a year. The furthest one comes from Texas when he's visiting his mum."

"We generally sell out on Saturdays and we supply Cherry Blossom Bakery in Wyld Green. We also have a girl who comes in and sells cakes on a Saturday. It would be great if there was a community hub which people like us could use."

Between 150 and 200 sourdough and yeasted breads are baked each week using traditional methods, without additives, with the process starting on Thursdays. Ingredients need to be weighed, mixed, kneaded and the dough needs to rise and be shaped before being put in the oven on a Friday night, with 12 to 18 loaves cooked at one time.

The bakery also makes specialty breads such as ciabatta, pizza and Italian flat bread.

Mr Woods added: "After launching the bakery, customers started asking me if I could teach them so I started the courses and they are very popular. We have six different types of courses and I've now taught 100 people."

Father-of-one Damien Smith, of Middlemore Lane, Aldridge, started volunteering at the micro-bakery after he went on one of the courses.

The 41-year-old environmental consultant said: "My wife found the course on the

internet and booked me in.

"I fell in love with the fact it was wholesome, traditional bread. It's a community thing. We know our customers on a first name basis."

Customers can buy from the bakery at 52 Mellish Road in Walsall from 10am to 2pm on Saturdays. Visitors are also welcome.

Mr Woods was among traders with a stall at Walsall's first night market in October and intends to take a pitch at the next, in March.

"Shows like the Great British Bake Off have got people more excited about baking."

"Making your own bread from scratch is fulfilling."

www.slowloaf.co.uk for details.



Mark Woods and helper Damien Smith at the shed bakery with a selection of their loaves



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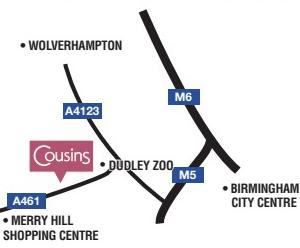
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NEWS

Raider's jail sentence is reduced by top judges

A MAN was jailed for seven years for his role in a string of raids on supermarket cash machines, which netted more than £700,000, had his sentence cut by top judges.

David John Holmes, from Walsall, was part of a masked gang that used cutting equipment to break into ATM machines at Co-op stores around the country during a 14-month crime spree, often using stolen performance cars to escape.

They used circular saws, oxy-acetylene gear and sledgehammers to break into the machines, said Judge Stephen Kramer, cutting through in exactly the right place to avoid triggering the alarm system.

Speeds

High-powered cars, including Audis and BMWs, were stolen by the men from Walsall and Birmingham to use during the raids and were driven at speeds of up to 150mph.

Holmes, aged 32, of Perch Road, was jailed for seven years at Birmingham Crown Court in September after admitting conspiracy to burgle.

Among the supermarkets targeted by the gang were

Co-op stores in the Park area of Walsall, plus sites in Solihull, Northfield, and Quinton in Birmingham.

A heist at the Co-op stores in Knowle and Quinton finally sparked a nationwide manhunt for the raiders.

At London's Appeal Court Holmes challenged the total length of his sentence and the term was reduced by nine months.

Judge Kramer, sitting with Lord Justice Aikens and Mr Justice Globe, said Holmes had committed "very serious offences" with some of the raids committed while on bail.

"A long sentence must remain," he said, but concluded that seven years was too long.

The term was cut to six years and three months.

Martial arts class



Tori Spellman, aged five, Debbie Challoner, 35, and Luke Barlow, nine, at the Bushido martial arts club

A MARTIAL arts group in Walsall is encouraging new members to swell its ranks as it launches new classes.

Bushido has been running for more than a year and teaches a range of martial arts including karate, kung-fu and Aikido.

It was launched at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre to help teach discipline, respect and self-defence.

Sessions take place in Stephenson Avenue on Mondays from 7pm to 8pm and Thursday between 6pm and 7pm. They are available for anyone aged four and above and the success has prompted organisers to offer an extra class.

It is due to launch at St Matthews Centre, near to the town centre church, on Tuesdays from March 5.

For more information and prices call 07535 673397.

Community orchard day

PEOPLE in Walsall are invited to plant trees to create a new community orchard this weekend.

Residents are invited to celebrate the new Caldmore community orchard in Carless Street by helping to dig in on Saturday between 10am and 4pm.

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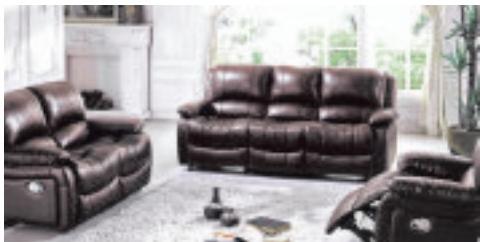
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NEWS

Police launch picture appeal to find football violence suspects



This man is sought by police



Blurred suspect image



Jacket has stripes



A clear image of one suspect



Do you know this man?



Another suspect



Cropped hair man



A suspect talks on the phone

POLICE have released images of eight men they want to speak to after trouble flared between rival Walsall and Shrewsbury fans.

Officers want to identify the men, who are believed to be from the Walsall and Wolverhampton areas, in connection with the disorder that broke out in Shrewsbury town centre before the match last October.

A total of 15 men from across Shropshire and the West Midlands were arrested before, during and after the match, most for violent disorder.

A further 14 men were arrested during December and January as part of the investigation and now CCTV images of eight more people police believe may have witnessed the trouble have been released by the force.

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Davies, of West Mercia Police, said: "We are now appealing to these eight men from the West Midlands to get in touch, and also urging anyone else who can recognise them to contact us."

"We believe they were present in the area at the time and they may well have information which will help our investigation into the incident."

Identities

"It's important we establish their identities as soon as possible as they may well have information which will assist us. I urge them to make contact." During the policing operation for the match, three police officers were injured, two requiring hospital treatment. No other injuries were reported to members of the public.

The police commander at the time said that positive and visible policing

around the town and at the football stadium in support of club stewards prevented large-scale disorder, enabling the vast majority of genuine fans to watch the game without interference.

The force said a number of people had been intent on causing trouble, some of it pre-planned, and officers had dealt with several potential flashpoints, preventing an escalation of disorder.

Mr Davies added: "Our inquiries into the trouble that occurred in the town centre will continue and we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to trace the offenders."

Information about the identities of the men in the CCTV pictures can be forwarded to Shrewsbury police station by calling 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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College wins award



Walsall Mayor Dennis Anson presents a careers award to college principal Jat Sharma watched by, from left, Danny Mall, Yvonne Hoyte, Carol Egan and June Morrow CAREERS guidance given at Walsall College has earned a top award for the college, recognising the quality of the guidance it gives to its students.

Presented by the Mayor of Walsall Councillor Dennis Anson to Walsall College principal Jat Sharma, the Investor in Careers award recognises management of careers education, information, advice and guidance.

Mr Sharma said: "In current times when the job market is more competitive than ever, impartial careers advice has become increasingly important and we are proud to be leading the way in this area."

Yvonne Hoyte is the college's guidance and employment leader.

Toddle's tidy total

'BIG toddle' events which took place in Walsall have raised more than £2,500 for a children's charity.

Toddlers at nurseries and play groups, and their parents, got involved in organising events and helping youngsters dress up as superheroes for the special fundraising event.

A total of £2,541.61 was raised for the charity Barnardo's.

This year's Barnardo's Big Toddle will have a a fairytale and nursery rhyme theme for the fancy dress.

Call 0800 008 7005 for more information.

Court orders fraudsters to go on course over benefits

TWO benefit fraudsters from Walsall, who swindled thousands of pounds, have been handed community orders.

Tracy Hayward appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court after she falsely claimed £14,000 in housing benefits and income support over almost three years.

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said the 42-year-old, of Clare Road, Walsall, advised the Department for Work and Pensions that her husband, Wayne, had moved out in 2009. They later moved in together again but she failed to tell officials.

She admitted two charges of failing to notify the authorities about a change in circumstances between August 2009 and July 2012.

In mitigation, Mr David Grice said: "They got back together again but she didn't know if that would last. She's very sorry for what's happened."

She was ordered to pay £100 costs and was given a 12-month community order.

Society

She will have to complete a benefit fraud intervention course that will focus on how the crime affects society.

In an unrelated case, Tahera Pipawala, of Darlaston, appeared before Walsall magistrates for falsely claiming income support.

She had failed to declare that she had between £45,000 and £50,000 in savings and no other income.

The 42-year-old, of Alexandra Road, who has previous convictions for fraud, had falsely claimed £3,444.80.

She initially denied falsely making a statement to obtain benefits but pleaded guilty on the day of her trial.

In mitigation, Mr David Houldcroft said: "In her mind, she regarded this money as her children's."

Pipawala was given an 18-month community order and will also have to attend benefit fraud intervention sessions.

by Lisa O'Brien

and £50,000 in various bank accounts, the court was told.

Mrs Meakin, prosecuting, said Pipawala started claiming income support in March 2011 on the basis that she had £350 in savings and no other income.

The 42-year-old, of Alexandra Road, who has previous convictions for fraud, had falsely claimed £3,444.80.

She initially denied falsely making a statement to obtain benefits but pleaded guilty on the day of her trial.

In mitigation, Mr David Houldcroft said: "In her mind, she regarded this money as her children's."

Pipawala was given an 18-month community order and will also have to attend benefit fraud intervention sessions.

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THE CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14 2013 Page 15

NEWS

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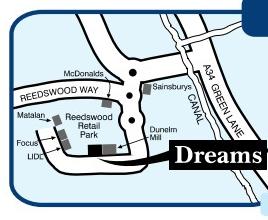


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NEWS

Runner plans to conquer London Marathon on stilts



Glyn Marston from New Invention is getting ready to run the London Marathon on jump stilts

A LONG-DISTANCE runner from Walsall is coming out of retirement to run the London marathon – on stilts!

Glyn Marston, aged 50, was seven years ago forced to retire after a severe injury to his knees that required surgery. But the father-of-two from Essington Road, New Invention, will run the 26 mile London Marathon for a 13th time on April 21 using special jump stilts designed to reduce the chances of additional injury to his knees.

Glyn chose to run for the National Autistic Society after his son Liam, 22, was diagnosed with the condition as a child. He said: "I am so proud of my son. Although we haven't used the charity much ourselves, we have spent time with others who have autism and we know the difference the charity has made to their lives."

If you would like to sponsor Glyn visit www.justgiving.com/glyn-marston-onstilts

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NEWS

Olympic ceremonies memorabilia goes on sale in the Black Country



Internet sales manager Charlotte Cassidy with the items A SLICE of Olympic history has gone on sale.

Props and other equipment used in the London opening and closing ceremonies have gone to auction in Wednesday.

More than 70 lorries of memorabilia, furniture and equipment from the London 2012 games have been stored at a 66,000sq ft warehouse in the town.

And two of three auctions were taking place this week. The sale is being staged by BFC Furniture Outlet.

Two more sales will be held next Wednesday and Thursday, at the firm's premises in Bull Lane, with about 3,000



Charlotte with some of the banners and pendants



Banners used by suffragettes in the opening ceremony

lots up for grabs in all. The auctions will take place from 11am to 5pm on both days due to the sheer number of lots.

They were bought by the company, which is run by 59-year-old Jim Cassidy, of Bloxwich.

Nightmare

He explained that he struck a deal with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) but it had been a "logistical nightmare" to move all the items to Wednesday.

The lots include props used by Take That for their performance at the closing ceremony, including drums,

Other lots include high visibility jackets, hard hats, floodlights, parasols and clothing with the 2012 logo.

Mr Cassidy said securing the items had been a real coup for the company.

"This is a little piece of history and I am glad people have the chance to buy it," he said.

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CLUB NEWS

Walk cash given to
Alzheimer's Society



Inner Wheel President Jan Weston, right, presents a cheque for £1,877 to Mrs Emma Dowling

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

At their monthly meeting President Jan Weston of the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgley & Wombourne presented a cheque for £1,877 to Mrs Emma Dowling from Alzheimer's Society. This amount was raised by a sponsored walk by members of the club.

Guest was most hole-ly amusing

BISHOP'S WOOD WI

ON a cold, icy Tuesday evening one would think the best place to be was by a fire, seated on a comfortable chair. However, January 15 was the date for the first meeting of 2013 and the group was lucky enough to have persuaded Kay Westwood to give one of her highly entertaining and amusing talks.

Gasped

The village hall was cosy and warm and a sizeable number of hardy souls chuckled, gasped and were generally enthralled by Kay's descriptions - and her stunning slides - of her latest trip around America.

The main topic was

"holes" which had been caused by erosion, meteors or man. Kay's favourite "hole" was the Grand Canyon as she spoke movingly about the impression that the vastness of the canyon had on her.

The next two meetings are on February 19 when Jonathon Nunn will talk about the Life of a Modern Farmer and on March 19 when Jackie Roberts, the chocolate tailor will speak about the secrets of chocolate making.

Meetings start at 8pm in the village hall.

Village florist gives blooming good talk



Julie Brooks during her talk to Penkridge Inner Wheel

INNER WHEEL OF PENKRIDGE

JULIE Brooks, of Lavender Florist in the village, joined forces with Penkridge Inner Wheel to raise more than £1,000 for local charities.

She delighted a capacity audience at the Peace Memorial Hall with her demonstration of 15 fantastic arrangements, with tips along the way for beginners and experts alike. Inner Wheel members provided drinks and home-made mince pies and ensured the smooth running of a very happy evening.

Ladies attending were very generous in their support of the raffle. The prize was Julie's lovely flowers.

Penkridge Inner Wheel would like to offer sincere thanks to Julie and her team for their expertise, hard work and time.

Charities supported this year have and will include Riverside House, Penkridge, the Pathway Project, Burntwood, Katharine House Hospice, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, Help For Heroes and the Air Ambulance.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Precious heritage in the modern era

STIRLING'S are independent retail jewellers with a long history in Walsall town centre.

John Stirling opened the first shop in 1893 on Park Street. Then, in the early 1900s, made a short move to the Victorian Arcade where the shop still stands today.

When John Stirling passed away, his daughter known as Mrs Stirling although she never married, carried on the business until her retirement in 1936.

John Parker, known as 'The Chief', bought the business. He built upon the sound foundations and the business continued through the war years and flourished in the post-war era, when Stirlings' reputation for trust and quality became renowned. John Parker retired in 1984.

Chris Bissell, a long-standing employee who had worked in the shop since 1964, bought the business. He maintained the family traditions and values, employing his wife, son and sister Jennifer.

Upon his retirement in 2008, he sold the business to Gordon Allen, an established manufacturing jeweller located in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. The Allen family have been in the jewellery trade for six generations. Gordon was delighted when Jennifer Bissell, Stirlings' very experienced customer

manager for many years, agreed to work with him.

Gordon relocated his business to Walsall and continued the Stirlings tradition by bringing his family with him. Working in the business now are his two sons, Bradley and Brent. He also transferred his trusted financial controller Chantal Matthews.

The Allen family and staff, are determined to maintain the highest level of customer satisfaction through professional advice coupled with the best selection of fine quality jewellery, both new and pre-owned.

Unique

Stirlings' shop window in the Victorian Arcade displays the many types of jewellery available. Customers enjoy a modern air-conditioned showroom when taking a closer look.

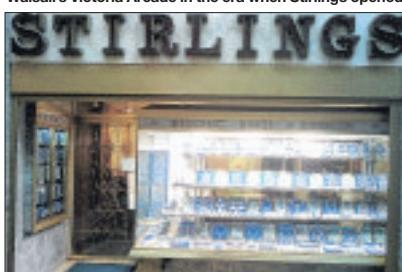
If they cannot find what they are looking for, Stirlings are able to source all kinds of products through their vast contacts. They can also produce unique 'one off' items to a customer's own design specification for special occasions, such as weddings or anniversaries.

Other services include repairs and alterations to jewellery, watch repairs and battery replacement.

The latest innovation is the purchase of unwanted or broken gold and silver items at competitive prices. Customers can bring items in for a realistic appraisal with no obligation.



Walsall's Victoria Arcade in the era when Stirlings opened



The famous tradition Stirlings jewellers shop front

Stirlings Jewellers moved to no1 Victorian Arcade in Walsall in 1903 Just after the Allens took over there was a flood that forced the family business to open in no6. Now after more than three years, that will be closing as Stirlings open a new flagship store next to their shop at the former Buxton & Bonnet gents outfitters

Here Stirlings will offer new jewellery sales and branded watches in the form of a new range called Bering. They will offer precious jewellery in gold, silver, platinum and palladium, with diamonds, sapphires, rubies and emeralds.

The aim is to continue Victorian values of service and quality at a fair price with a modern approach.

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FOCUS ON PELSALL**Opening of new library delayed**

BAD weather has delayed the opening of the village's new library.

Walsall Council leisure chiefs had pledged that Pelsall Library, part of the £5.4 million Pelsall Village Centre, would be open by the end of January. It has emerged that snow and ice had caused delays.

Disrupted

Pelsall Village Centre also boasts a new doctor's surgery section, which was opened early in December—a month after originally planned. The library and a children's centre were also due to follow.

Work on the car park has been disrupted by snow and ice, Walsall Council has said, and is likely to be finished later this month after which tennis can be moved in.

Council bosses say the current library, operating from a temporary base in Norton Road since work on the new centre started last year, is running "quite happily" and will continue to do so until the new library is open.

Adrian Andrew, regeneration chief, said: "We're incredibly proud of Pelsall Village Centre and we know that people in the village love it."

"Overall, I'm sure everyone will join me in praising this magnificent structure that will serve the people of Pelsall for generations to come."

Report by Tom Mason

money from the applicant, as long as the developers agreed to make the homes more environmentally sustainable.

Speaking after the meeting Dunedin's managing director, Chris Baker said: "The new homes will offer something for everyone and will further enhance Pelsall as a village.

"It's good to see that Walsall Council is supporting developers to improve the town."

The firm, which is based in Barn Green, Worcestershire, have already completed construction of two other residential developments in Walsall. These are at Bay Tree Court in Bloxwich and at Everitt Place in Willenhall.

Mr Baker added that Dunedin were currently looking at other potential sites for housing developments in Walsall, explaining that they would like to build further projects in the borough later this year.

Plans were initially held up after an ancient oak tree with a preservation order was discovered at the site, but the developers agreed to retain the tree in order to speed up the process.

Better

Vice-chairman of the planning committee, Councillor Mike Bird told councillors at last week's meeting: "I think members all agree that what we see here is better than the current site."

"It's a shame that Pelsall is losing its village petrol station but unfortunately small garages can no longer compete with supermarket forecourts."

Planners approved the development's construction and even agreed to waive an application for section 106

A DILAPIDATED petrol station in Pelsall will be transformed into modern homes under plans unanimously approved by councillors.

Developer Dunedin Homes plans to build 14 properties on land in Pelsall which is currently occupied by the Riddings Garage, which has closed down.

Construction on the site on the Wolverhampton Road



Enterprise education co-ordinator Carmel Tatlock, right, and pupil Grace Lloyd, aged 15, along with fellow pupils, at Shelfield Community Academy, Pelsall

Pupils get advice on careers in business

SCHOOL students are lining up business careers after an advice seminar was given by volunteer workers.

Eight volunteers from One Stop Shop Ltd at Brownhills dropped into Shelfield Academy, in Broad Way, Pelsall, to talk to pupils about experiences in the workplace.

The day at the Walsall school was hailed a "massive success" by organisers from education charity Young Enterprise.

Around 120 Year 10 pupils attended the enterprise day, while a further 120 attended a second similar event.

Ginger Nijjar, who is Young Enterprise manager for the West Midlands, said: "This is all about pupils making the connection between education, training and employment."

Lots for children to do in holiday

PARENTS are being helped to keep the kids busy during the school holiday with a variety of organised half term activities at Pelsall Youth Centre. The events by Walsall's Integrated Young People's Support Service promises something for everybody with activities ranging from boxing to historical research.

On Monday youngsters will be able to get creative with Design It, Decorate It, Cook In It, a special project from 6:15pm to 8:45pm.

On Tuesday avid gamers can battle it out on West Midlands Police Cyber Bus from 12:15pm to 3:45pm. Children will be able to find out about their past on Thursday with a family history event from 12:15pm to 2:45pm.

The week of fun ends on Friday with the The Great Pelsall Cook Off, a competition to find the best local young chef from 12:15pm to 3:45pm. That is followed by Box Clever from 5:45pm to 8:15pm.

For more information contact 01922 650320.

Group meets

ONE of Pelsall's leading community groups is Pelsall Pride partnership have been responsible for a number of projects in the village. They will be holding their first meeting of the year on Monday, February 25, at Pelsall Methodist Church at 8pm.

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Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
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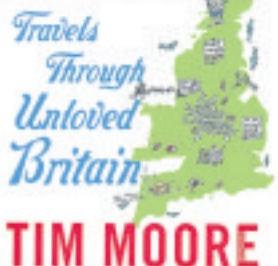
BOOKS

Awfully pleased to visit – at least you're not Rhyl



Travel writer Tim Moore

**YOU ARE AWFUL
(BUT I LIKE YOU)**



The cover of Tim Moore's new book on a tour of unfashionable Britain

THE British obsession with the worst things in life is a national pursuit along with queuing and tea, which is why Tim Moore's latest travelogue will appeal to many.

You Are Awful (But I Like You): Travels Through Unloved Britain, is an account of the London author's trip around what have been labelled some of the country's worst towns and cities by studies put together by research groups.

Itinerary

This book will make you laugh right from the start, with his choice of transport being an old Austin Montego, named Ozzy, that was designed in Longbridge but built in Bulgaria.

Black Country folk may be surprised that Walsall was on his itinerary. Apparently Tim decided to visit because a survey found Walsall to be Britain's most depressed town.

He braves the A34 and goes to the town's leather museum.

But take heart Walsall folk, in an interview with The Chronicle, Tim

reveals it was one of his favourite stops.

He said: "In comparison to some of the places I went to, Walsall felt like the French Riviera. It was actually doing something with itself, unlike most of the other towns I visited."

Each town is a subject for wry humour though in each place he visits he manages to find a glimmer of hope – except maybe for one faded North Wales seaside resort.

Tim said: "Rhyl was easily the most depressing place I went to. The town had invested loads of money into developing itself by knocking down a lot of beautiful Victorian architecture and building a horrible B&Q. The town died soon after."

This book should be considered a collection of short stories linked by a common theme.

It is a brilliant book to dip in and out of. For those that love the works of rambling travel authors such as Bill Bryson this will be a perfect addition to their collection.

This tale of one man and his awful car is published by Vintage Books, priced £7.99.

Tom Mason

Eyewitness guides help travellers plan top ten trip

IF you're going on a foreign city break this year, among travel essentials in your luggage should be a **DK Eyewitness Top 10 Travel Guide**.

These city guides pack a lot of information into their small - 10cm by 19cm - paperback format, including maps and lavishly illustrated details of the must-see sights and museums. They are small enough to pop into your pocket next to your passport. Very usefully, they include a pull-out version of the map to use when exploring your destination.

Leon Burakowski

v. happy ever afters

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NEWS

Smoke-filled air at Springvale Foundry, Wolverhampton



Butler Bayliss' painting Pig Beds – Tapping A Furnace



Three gaunt figures close to a Darlaston blast furnace



An aquatint-technic etching of Bilton blast furnaces



A stoker feeding or poking the fierce fire of a Black Country furnace



An Evening in the Black Country – workers making their way home

Artist captured stark landscape of our past

by Tim Spiers

TO some, scenes of dark, smoke-filled industrial landscapes which gave the Black Country its name wouldn't exactly pass as being an artist's dream.

But Edwin Butler Bayliss – son of an ironmaster who went on to become a celebrated painter – thought differently. His work depicting Bilton, Tipton and Wednesbury documented the Black Country at the height of its industrial growth and is of huge historical and cultural importance.

Now art lovers can see for themselves just why Butler Bayliss is so revered in an exhibition of his work which is being held at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street.

Butler Bayliss was born in 1874, the eldest of eight children and grew up in Merridale Road, Wolverhampton, before later moving to

Country, carved a niche for himself as the foremost painter of the Black Country landscape.

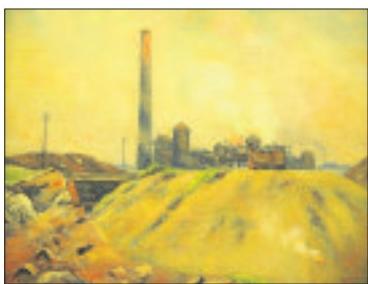
He took his work across the country from London to Scotland and to some his chief subject matter was surprising as his father Samuel Bayliss was a managing director of the large local iron foundry Bayliss, Jones and Bayliss.

Despite not having any formal artistic training, Butler Bayliss decided not to follow in his father's footsteps and took up painting.

The 1901 census listed him as 'artist sculptor; annuitant living at home' so he had clearly decided to concentrate full-time on painting when in his late 20s.

He later moved to The Beeches in nearby Regis Road, which became a social base for many other Black Country artists.

The exhibition, which also shows his pictures of the West coastline, runs until April 27.



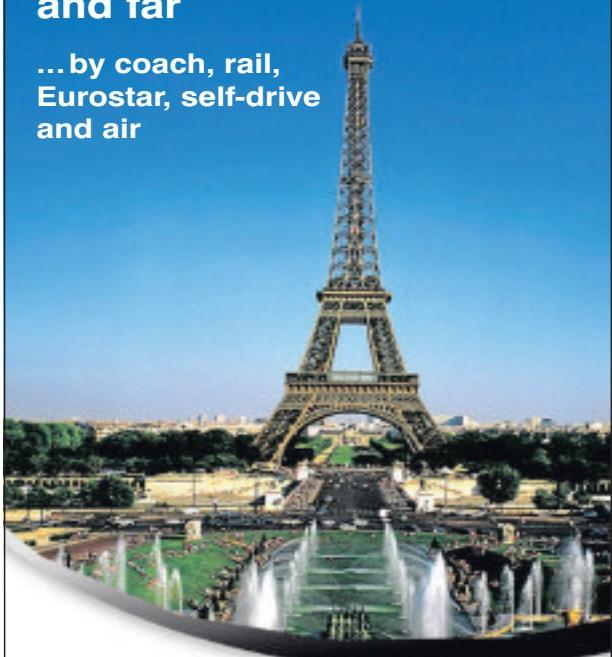
Caponfield Furnaces in Sedgley depicts a clear sky with vibrant green tufts of grass



Brooding clouds as people trek along what Bayliss called A Staffordshire Highway

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NEWS

Man seriously injured

TWO men have been injured, one seriously, after the car they were in overturned in Walsall Road, Aldridge.

West Midlands Ambulance Service attended the incident shortly after 10pm on Saturday.

A spokesman said: "Crews found a car on its side. A man in his twenties who was a passenger in the car had a head injury. He was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital."

The driver was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for further checks suffering back pain.

Win is a major feat



Ballroom dancers Sam Brotherton, aged 15 and Nicole Brown, 16, who won at a national competition

A DANCING duo showed off their fancy footwork and came out on top in a national competition.

Sam Brotherton, aged 15, of Great Wyrley, and his dance partner, 16-year-old Nicole Brown, of Sutton Coldfield, qualified for the finals of the Britain's Best competition in Latin and ballroom dancing.

It was held at the Tower Ballroom in Birmingham, where the pair impressed judges and won the under 35s pre-amateur section for ballroom dancing and came second in the Latin section. The pair, who were presented with trophies for their victories, train three times a week with David and Helen Trueman in Essington and started dancing together a year ago.

Sam's mother Nicola, aged 46, said: "Sam's been dancing since the age of seven. They are always doing competitions but this is the first major one they have won. I'm very proud of them."

Campaigners keep up HS2 opposition

CAMPAINERS say high-speed rail tracks set to pass through the Staffordshire countryside would "impose themselves on unspoilt tranquil landscapes".

The Staffordshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is opposing the route, which cuts through land near Lichfield, north of Stafford and south of Stone.

The route for the second phase of the HS2 plan was unveiled last month. The multi-billion pound scheme would halve journey times from London to Birmingham, while a proposed extension to the line will see it link Manchester via Staffordshire.

Stretches

CPRE Staffordshire has vowed to keep up its opposition to the scheme.

Technical adviser Phil Goode said: "It imposes itself not only on long stretches of unspoilt land-

scapes but also close to, or under, many villages and involves demolition of rural properties, farms and recreational areas.

"Railway engineers have now come up against the obstacle of Staffordshire's topography, its hills and valleys, which contribute so much to the county's scenic beauty, but are intransigent barriers against the almost ruler-straight alignment demanded by the high-speed train's speed of up to 250 mph."

Stolen puppy now back with its owner

A PUPPY that was snatched from its owner's arms as he carried it through a Cannock car park has been found. The victim was walking through Hunter Road car park with Staffordshire bull terrier Tess – given to him as a 16th birthday present – when he was approached by two men.

One of the men tried to grab the dog from him and although the owner initially resisted, he was threatened. A member of the public found the stolen dog wandering in Bridgford Park and it was returned to the owner.

Two men, aged 31 and 35 from Cannock were arrested on suspicion of robbery and bailed pending further inquiries. Detectives are continuing to investigate the incident and anyone with information can call 101.



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FirstBuy offers first-time buyers, key workers and households unable to buy on the open market the opportunity to purchase a brand new home, paying just 80% of the asking price at the outset with the balance being covered by a loan from the Government and Bloor Homes. This Government scheme is available on selected plots at Bloor Homes Satchwell Grange development in Wednesbury.

Bloor Homes Sales Director Anne Cadman says: "For qualifying purchasers, FirstBuy offers an excellent opportunity to get that first foot on the housing ladder. We have a range of homes that are available under the scheme and our sales advisers can give you all the information you need on the limited plots available on this Government backed scheme."



Our Satchwell Grange development is an ideal family location with good local facilities, there are a range of homes to choose from. Ideal as a starter home is the two-bedroom Shipley. The selling price of this home is £132,950 and with First Buy the price to move in comes down to £106,360 with a deposit of £5,318 required.

A typical three-bedroom home available at Satchwell Grange is the Bampton. With a selling price of £145,950, this excellent family home comes in at £116,760 for First Buy purchasers with a deposit of £5,838 deposit required. Bloor Homes also offer other incentives on the Satchwell Grange development which can make a real difference in speeding up the purchasing process.

If you are already a homeowner, the biggest barrier to a move could be having to sell your existing home, but Bloor Homes has a 105% full market part-exchange scheme so even this is achievable. Also available is a matched deposit of up to 5%. (Up to a maximum of £10,000)

Bloors are also offering its Homestar2 scheme. Available on selected plots this is a shared equity scheme which means that only 5% deposit is needed and purchasers can move in for 80% of the asking price. The remaining 15% of the deposit is an interest-free loan, repayable in up to 10 years.

GREAT NEWS! Newbuy also available – a government backed scheme whereby you own 100% of your new Bloor Home with only 5% deposit required.

Full details can be found at our website at www.bloorhomes.com/satchwellgrange For details of which plots are available on any of the above schemes call our Sales Advisor Pat at the sales office on 0121 505 1812 (Open Thursday - Monday) or book an appointment online.



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*First Buy is available on selected plots only. Terms and conditions apply, subject to status and qualification. Full details are available from our Sales Team. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other loan secured against it, be sure you can afford the repayments before entering it to a credit agreement. * Photos depict a typical Ashbury showhome.



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REVIEWS

Eeh-bard-gum tale on tour



Emma Noakes, as Perdita, and Gavin Fowler, as Florizel, in Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, at Stratford then on tour Picture: RSC

The Winter's Tale, RSC, Stratford, then on tour

THE Winter's Tale is one of Shakespeare's least enjoyable plays, an uneasy blend of tragedy and comedy; but a strong cast invest the Royal Shakespeare Company's new version with emotional intensity.

Director Lucy Bailey has moved the play to the 19th century, with the wealthy inhabitants of Sicilia portrayed as Pre-Raphaelite romantics whilst Bohemia becomes a northern seaside resort with clog-dancing Morris men and rowdy wakes week revellers. The seaside setting is enhanced by video effects and a huge metal helterskelter/lighthouse.

The play is a story of jealousy, as King Leontes of Sicilia sets in motion a terrible chain of events when he accuses his pregnant wife of adultery with the King of Bohemia. Jo Stone-Fewings was in

turns menacing and pathetic as the manic monarch, causing the audience to gasp with shock when he punched his queen in the stomach.

Husky-voiced Tara Fitzgerald, in her first RSC role, was outstanding as the wrongly maligned queen, her eyes filling with tears of anger and grief at her rough treatment.

Strong support came from Rakie Ayola as the one lady of court prepared to stand up to the bullying king and Emma Noakes as the ale-swilling banished princess, who has grown up to speak with an eeh-bard-gum accent.

The Winter's Tale, running for three and a half hours, is a strange choice to take on tour but the performances are reason enough to catch it. It continues at Stratford until February 23 and the tour includes runs at Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre from April 16 to 20.

Leon Burakowski.

Eccentric steampunk blues

Ethan Johns,
Glee Club, Birmingham

IT wouldn't be too harsh to call music producer turned singer/songwriter Ethan Johns eccentric.

The Surrey-born performer, who has spent many years in America is on tour promoting his solo album If Not Now Then When? His mixture of old school protest songs and Seasick Steve-style street blues went down extremely well with his fans at the sold-out venue.

He shared the stage with what appeared to be a Heath Robinson-created upright piano which seemed to pay homage to steampunk but purpose of which was never fully realised. His performance involved an iPhone as a drummer and lo-tech reel-to-reel tape player.

Johns provided an interesting mix of styles. His ability as a musician is beyond question but his skill as a raconteur needs a lot of work.

Danny Farragher

Osmonds stars of this Boogie night

Boogie Nights, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton ONE Direction are the hottest boyband in the world right now but will they still get the fans screaming in the year 2053?

I ask because the Osmonds appeared at Wolverhampton Civic Hall in 70s show Boogie Nights. There were only three - Jimmy, Jay and Merrill - but the mere mention of their name produced near-hysteria. The group had their first hit - One Bad Apple - in 1970 but the fans have stayed loyal. As they sang, it was to a backdrop of a video of their career. Their contribution consisted of hits like Proud One and Crazy Horses but they also asked fans to shout out tracks and then sang them.

The show also starred Gareth Gates, Shane Richie Junior, Louisa Lytton, Andy Abraham and Chico. Richie was Roddy who cheated on girlfriend Debs (Louisa Lytton) and she ended up marrying his best mate Dean (Gareth Gates). Richie was more interested in becoming a rock star and that's where the Osmonds fitted in - as they offered him the chance to open one of their concerts. This was all played out to a backdrop of the disco hits of the 70s.

Former X Factor star Andy Abraham out-sang the others, especially on You're My Everything. Gareth Gates shone as he stood in for Donny to sing Puppy Love.

Tony Attwater

Quirky ballet was a gust of fresh air

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty, Birmingham Hippodrome

WITH choreographer Matthew Bourne in charge there was no way this favourite fairy tale was ever going to include a cutesy christening and a spinning wheel.

He didn't disappoint. We had a robotic baby climbing up the curtain, a traveltor, vampires, hoodies and magnificent costumes and props taking us from 1890 right up to 2013.

Bourne gave us the classical spiked with humour and a gust of fresh air - not many serious ballet performances are met with gales of laughter even fewer have puppets knocking seven bells out of the cast.

We lapped up Bourne's trademark quirkiness, revelling in the straight leg lifts, the hands cupped behind necks and absence of ballet shoe ribbons and were joyfully overwhelmed with both the scenery and mastery of the whole performance.

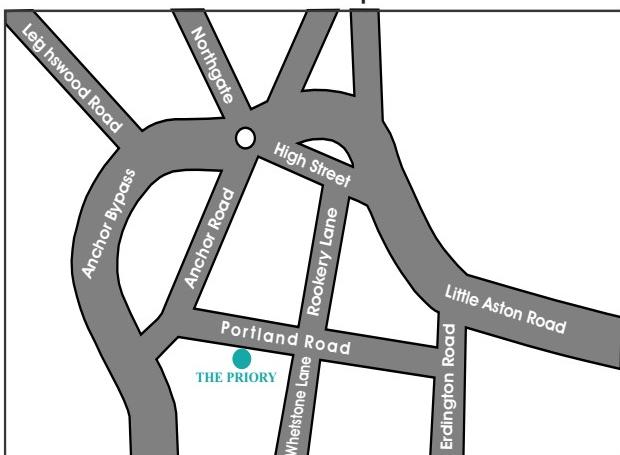
Sarah Cowen-Strong

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What's On! Walsall

Rat's the way to celebrate as Rep unveils dark fantasy

Town's top poet to read at library

WALSALL'S poet laureate Ian Henery will be reading some of his favourite passages at an event next month.

Mr Henery, who also runs a law practice in Willenhall, will be at Streetly Library on March 13 from 10.30-11.30am.

The father-of-four has just had his first poetry book published.

Money raised through sales of his Batman, Where Are You? book are going to the Mayor of Walsall's charities and the Sutton Coldfield Scout Gang Show.

Celebrating songs of Lloyd Webber

A HARMONY group will bring the songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber to the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock next month.

Chase Harmony are currently in rehearsals for their next show, The Wonderful World of Lloyd Webber, to be performed at the Church Street venue on March 22 and 23.

The 40-strong group recently renamed itself from the Gateway Singers.

Wrestling returns to Cannock venue

LDN Wrestling makes a welcome return to Cannock's Prince of Wales Centre on Wednesday, March 3.

The action starts at the venue from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £12, £10 concessions or £5 for a family group ticket.

Call 01543 578762 for further details.

BIRMINGHAM Rep continues its centenary celebrations with the premiere of a new adaptation for the stage of Philip Pullman's dark children's fantasy *I Was A Rat!*

A royal role for Tennant



David Tennant – new role

DAVID Tennant is to return to the Royal Shakespeare Company to star in the lead role of Richard II.

The former Doctor Who actor won acclaim for his performance as Hamlet in 2008 and the RCS production went on to be screened by the BBC.

He will appear in the historical drama in October at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, before transferring to the Barbican in London.

The play, brought to the stage by Italian director Teresa Ludovico, opened this week and runs at the Old Rep Theatre in Station Street until March 2, before touring the UK.

The Rep's previous adaptation of a work by the popular children's writer, Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials, was a huge success with adults and children alike in 2009.

Other theatre highlights in the region are dominated by ballet over the coming week.

David Bintley's magical version of Aladdin has its UK premiere by the Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome from tomorrow (Friday) until February 23. Created for the National Ballet of Japan in 2008, it promises to be a spectacular production.

Meanwhile, the Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia perform The Nutcracker at Wolverhampton Grand on Sunday, at 4pm, then Coppelia on Monday and Swan Lake twice on Tuesday.

If music be the food of love, play on



Crazy For You – married couples Lyndon Flavell and Clair Kramer and Leon and Rachael Davies prepare for West Bromwich Operatic Society's spring production, being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in April

A SHARED love of the stage blossomed into romance for two couples who are members of West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS).

Love is definitely in the air at the society, and not just because of Valentine's Day, as the group prepares to stage its production in April. And the name of the show, *Crazy For You*, could not be more appropriate.

Leading lady Claire Kramer, 33, and her partner Lyndon Flavell, 37, first met after he attended La Cage Aux Folies performed by the society in

2009. Their relationship blossomed and Mr Flavell, a firefighter at Ladywood Fire Station, joined the group in 2010. The couple, of Spring Hill Grove, Penn, got engaged over Christmas. They already have a 15-month-old daughter named Eliza.

Dance teacher Claire, who will star as Polly Baker in the next show, said: "Without the society we would never have got together."

Society members Leon and Rachel Davies met as children when they both became involved in amateur theatre.

The couple, from Meadow Croft, Hagley, celebrated 14 years of their relationship earlier this month. They married in 2005 and have two children Ethan, four, and Darcy, one. Mr Davies, a lecturer at Aston University, became involved with WBOS in 1998 and his wife, who teaches singing, became a member in 2005. He is taking the lead role of Bobby Child in the latest show.

Crazy For You is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from April 23 to 27. For tickets call 0192 429212.

History play on street and stage

ACTORS are gearing up to bring Walsall's history to life in a street play.

The Lovers and the Pirates, commissioned by Walsall Civic Society, bring to life the tale of the town's famous ceremonial Bayard's Colts.

Walsall's Museum's Bayard's Colts are a set of 17 medieval carved wooden clubs. They are at least 300 years old.

The play by David Calcutt is staged on Saturday in Walsall Market Place, at noon, 1.30pm and 3pm. For more see www.bayardscolts.org.uk

Then on Sunday there will be performances at 2.30pm and 7pm at the Bookmark Library Theatre in Bloxwich.

A family ticket for the theatre version will cost £12.50. Call the box office on (01922) 655900.

Looking at funny side of science

COMEDIAN Robin Ince will be taking to the stage at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton tomorrow night (Friday).

The comic and radio host will be appearing on Friday to talk about his favourite scientists in his new show *The Importance of Being Interested*. As part of his BBC Radio 4 show *The Infinite Monkey Cage*, which he co-presents with physicist Brian Cox, he regularly takes a sideways look at the world of science.

Tickets cost £12 or £10 for the 8pm show. See www.arenatheatre.info or call 01902 321321.

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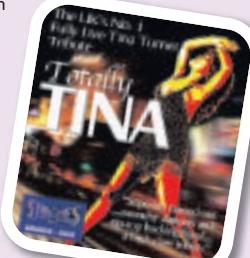
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 16.02.13

CHOICE



Eddie Izzard

Funny Business

BBC2, 10.30pm

The first episode of this series was shown at the beginning of January, only for viewers to then be left hanging for a month. However, if you're still interested, this second edition, which focuses on the role of managers and agents, should be worth the wait. Eddie Izzard, David Baddiel, Rhod Gilbert and Jo Brand are among the stand-ups giving us an insight into what it takes to succeed, but anyone who thinks that previous generations of performers weren't quite so concerned about the financial aspects of showbusiness could be in for a surprise.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** 11.30 *The Good Cook.* (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. **1.00 Saturday Night Football Focus.** 1.00 Live Athletics. **4.30 Final Score.** 5.10 *Animal Antics.* 5.40 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
- 6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Charity edition, with Martin Offiah and Phil Tufnell, Mark Bright and Martin Pistorius, Sarah Millican and Pete Reed, and John Parrott and Hazel Irvine, Alexander Armstrong hosts.
- 6.50 Let's Dance for Comic Relief.** New series. Comedian Tim Vine, ex-EastEnders Natalie Cassidy and boxing star Ricky Hatton re-enact famous dances for charity. Hosted by Alex Jones and Steve Jones.
- 8.10 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes: *The National Lottery* draw presented by Matt Johnson.
- 9.00 Casualty.** Ash takes charge as the flu epidemic continues.
- 9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes is excited about Rory's big day – until she meets the wedding planner. Last in the series. (R)
- 10.20 BBC News: Weather.**
- 10.40 Kevin Bridges – The Story So Far.** A performance from Glasgow's SEC Arena followed by a National Lottery Update.
- 11.40 The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Football League.
- 12.55 Weatherview.** 1.00 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 Close.** 7.30 Great British Menu. (R) 8.30 Great British Menu. (R) 9.00 Great British Menu. (R) 9.30 Great British Menu. (R) 10.00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) 11.00 Meet the Ancestors. (R) 11.30 Map Man. (R) 12.00 Indian Food Made Easy. (R) 12.30 Match of the Day. (R) 1.30 University Challenge. (R) 1.30 Talking Pictures. (R) 2.15 ITV News. 3.30 *The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.* 11.20 Saturday Cookbook. (R) 12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.25 My Tasty Travels with Lynne. (R) 1.30 The Great Diner Date. (R) 3.30 *The Celebrity Special.* (R) 4.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 5.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.15 ITV News: Weather. 5.30 Live FA Cup Football.
- 7.00 Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond, James May and Richard Hammond, who take the pan-European rail network, in a sprint from London to Milan. (R)
- 8.00 Dad's Army.** The vicar enlists in the Home Guard. (R)
- 8.30 Flight of the Rhino: Natural World.** Film following a team of experts from South Africa to relocate black rhinos away from the threat of poachers, using helicopters to carry the endangered animals to a new site.
- 9.30 Howard Goodall's Story of Music.** The composer examines the middle to late 19th century.
- 10.30 Comedy Business.** The roles played by comedians' managers and agents.
- 11.30 FILM: The Infidel.** (2010) Comedy, starring Omid Djalili.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Handy Manny.** 6.10 Handy Manny. 6.25 *The Hive.* (R) 6.35 *The Hive.* (R) 6.40 *Dick Van Dyke Show.* (R) 6.45 *Almost Naked Animals.* (R) 7.15 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Ultimatum: Spider-Man. 8.30 Victoria. (R) 9.00 *Jessie.* 9.25 *ITV News.* 9.30 *The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.* 11.20 Saturday Cookbook. (R) 12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.25 My Tasty Travels with Lynne. (R) 1.30 The Great Diner Date. (R) 3.30 *The Celebrity Special.* (R) 4.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 5.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.15 ITV News: Weather. 5.30 Live FA Cup Football.
- 8.05 Take Me Out.** A tailor, a fitness model, a tattoo artist and a DJ compete to win the love life in the hope of impressing 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness presents the dating show.
- 9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to presenting duo Ant and Dec about life on and off screen. Tim Roth discusses his new film *The Liability* and American pop star Kesha performs live in the studio.
- 10.20 ITV News: Weather.**
- 10.35 FA Cup Football Highlights.** Action from the opening fifth-round fixtures, which were Luton Town v Millwall, Arsenal v Burnley, Milton Keynes Dons v Barnsley and Oldham Athletic v Everton.
- 11.50 The Big Sports Quiz – Boys Girls.** (R)
- 12.40 Jackpot247.** 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.
- 5.45 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) 6.35 *The Hoobs.* (R) 7.00 *Will & Grace.* (R) 7.30 *Football Short: Kingsman Show.* (R) 7.45 *Everybody Loves Raymond.* (R) 8.55 *Everybody Loves Raymond.* (R) 9.25 *Frasier.* (R) 10.20 *Frasier.* (R) 10.50 *The Big Bang Theory.* (R) 11.20 *The Big Bang Theory.* (R) 11.30 *Friends.* (R) 12.15 *The Simpsons.* (R) 12.45 *Secret Millionaire Ireland.* (R) 1.50 *Channel 4 Racing.* 4.10 *Come Dine with Me.* (R) 4.40 *Come Dine with Me.* (R) 5.10 *Come Dine with Me.* (R) 5.45 *Come Dine with Me.* (R)
- 6.20 Come Dine with Me.** Sue Howells hosts the night in East Ham, London, hoping to impress her guests with a Caribbean-themed dinner party, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)
- 6.50 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.10 4Thought.tv.**
- 7.15 FILM: Porridge.** (1979) Cellmates Fletcher and Godwin plot to aid in aiding an escape attempt and then have to break back in. Comedy spin-off from the TV series, with Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale.
- 9.00 World Without End.** Godwyn throws Caris out of the couple home and sentences her to be burned at a witch, and Thomas rallies the townspeople when Edward's army surrounds Kingsbridge. Last in the series.
- 10.55 FILM: AVPR: Aliens vs Predator – Requiem.** (2007) Sci-fi action sequel, starring Stephen Lang.
- 12.50 FILM: Get Rich or Die Tryin'.** (2005) 2.45 *A Ninja Is for Life, Not Just for Christmas.* (R) 2.50 Hollyoaks. 5.00 Countdown. (R) 5.45 *Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard.*

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** 10.00 *Power Rangers Samurai.* (R) 10.35 *Batman: The Brave and the Bold.* 11.00 *Straw Petz.* (R) 12.05 *Dangerous Drivers: School.* (R) 1.05 *Film: Black Widow.* (2008) 2.50 *Film: A River Runs Through It.* (1992) 5.05 *5 News Weekend.* 5.10 *Film: Columbus: Prescription Murder.* (1968) Crime drama, starring Peter Finch.
- 7.10 CSI: NY.** The bodies of two scuba divers are found in the East River. (R)
- 7.55 NCIS.** As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery – a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)
- 8.50 NCIS.** McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured and held hostage by the inmates, who are afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. (R)
- 9.50 Love, Death & Stargirl.** The boyfriend of a missing woman implicates her ex-con neighbour – who Stabler helped put in prison 19 years earlier. Guest starring Stephen Rea.
- 10.50 Love & Order: Criminal Intent.** Nichols takes on a crime boss when a detective is killed.
- 11.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.** Authorities begin a night-time operation to catch a sexual predator. (R)
- 12.15 SuperCasino.** 4.00 *HouseBusters.* (R) 4.25 Divine Design. 4.45 *400 Club Secrets.* (R) 5.05 *Hana's Helper.* (R) 5.15 *The Milkshake Show.* (R) 5.40 *Thomas & Friends.* (R) 5.50 *Roary the Racing Car.* (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00 Merlin.** 7.45 *Doctor Who.* 8.35 *Film: National Treasure.* (2004) 10.35 *World's Craziest Fools.* (2001) Family Guy. 11.50 *American Dad!*
- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Cultural World: Unnatural History of London.** 8.00 *Baroque!* From St Peter's to St Paul's. 9.00 *Spiral 4: State of Terror.* 10.45 *Duels at the BBC.* 11.45 *Love Songs at the BBC: A Valentine's Day Special.*
- ITV2**
- 3.20 FILM: Garfield.** (2004) 5.00 *You've Been Framed!* 7.00 *Film: Mamma Mia!* (2008) 9.20 *Take Me Out – The Gossip.* 10.45 *Fake Relation.* 10.50 *Film: The Chronicles of Riddick.* (2004)
- ITV3**
- 2.45 Agatha Christie's Marple.** 4.50 *Lewis.* 6.50 *Doc Martin.* 9.00 *Midsomer Murders.* 11.00 *Film: The Birds.* (1963)
- ITV4**
- 2.40 FILM: The Rare Breed.** (1966) 4.40 *Film: Aces High.* (1976) 7.00 *TT Legends.* 7.30 *GT Academy.* 8.00 *River Monsters: Untold Stories.* 9.00 *River Monsters: Killer Weapons.* 10.05 *Film: On Deadly Ground.* (1994)
- ITV**
- 3.35 Rules of Engagement.** 6.00 *The Big Bang Theory.* 7.00 *Happy Endings.* 8.00 *How I Met Your Mother.* 8.30 *2 Broke Girls.* 9.00 *Film: Joy Ride.* (2001) 10.00 *The Big Bang Theory.*
- Film4**
- 3.00 Horton Hears a Who!** (2008) 4.40 *Cutthroat Island.* (1995) 7.00 *X-Men (2000): Mutant outside.* 8.00 *Wings of Fire.* 9.00 *Wings of Fire.* 10.00 *Wings of Fire.* 11.00 *Wings of Fire.* 12.00 *Wings of Fire.* 1.00 *Wings of Fire.* 2.00 *Wings of Fire.* 3.00 *Wings of Fire.* 4.00 *Wings of Fire.* 5.00 *Wings of Fire.* 6.00 *Wings of Fire.* 7.00 *Wings of Fire.* 8.00 *Wings of Fire.* 9.00 *Wings of Fire.* 10.00 *Wings of Fire.* 11.00 *Wings of Fire.* 12.00 *Wings of Fire.* 1.00 *Wings of Fire.* 2.00 *Wings of Fire.* 3.00 *Wings of Fire.* 4.00 *Wings of Fire.* 5.00 *Wings of Fire.* 6.00 *Wings of Fire.* 7.00 *Wings of Fire.* 8.00 *Wings of Fire.* 9.00 *Wings of Fire.* 10.00 *Wings of Fire.* 11.00 *Wings of Fire.* 12.00 *Wings of Fire.* 1.00 *Wings of Fire.* 2.00 *Wings of Fire.* 3.00 *Wings of Fire.* 4.00 *Wings of Fire.* 5.00 *Wings of Fire.* 6.00 *Wings of Fire.* 7.00 *Wings of Fire.* 8.00 *Wings of Fire.* 9.00 *Wings of Fire.* 10.00 *Wings of Fire.* 11.00 *Wings of Fire.* 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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 17.02.13**CHOICE****Professor Brian Cox****Wonders of Life****BBC2, 9pm**

Many of us may take trees for granted, but there's little danger of that after the latest 59-minute lecture from Professor Brian Cox. He reveals the largest things that ever lived on Earth weren't dinosaurs or blue whales but trees. The Mountain Ash is the largest flowering plant in the world, and Brian is in awe of his 80-metre-high co-stars, some of which can live to more than 300 years, but did you know there are limits to how big each tree can get? In Australia, Brian explains how the laws of physics govern all living things, from a 100-metre-tall tree to the smallest bacterium cell.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast: **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Picture. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Women for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. **(R) 1.20** Call the Midwife. **3.20** Escape to the Country. **4.20** Lifeline. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Penguins - Spy in the Huddle. **(R)** **6.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.30** **Blandings.** Clarence gets a new admirer. Last in the series. **7.00** **Countryside.** Adam Henson finds the best local produce near his Cotswolds farm and presents archive food-related items, including a Yorkshire pudding battle and fishing for sardines in Cornwall. Including Weather for the Week. **8.00** **All the Midwife.** Trixie volunteers to find a celebrity judge for the baby show at the summer fete, while Jenny tries to help a mother-of-eight distraught after learning she is pregnant again. **9.00** **Ripper Street.** A chipping his way to the top with his own team of private detectives, who cut a violent swathe through the borough, while Jackson and Susan's past comes back to haunt them. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Bill Turnbull, Ben Miller and Jo Brand. **11.05** Match of the Day 2. **11.35** The Apprentice USA. New series. Donald Trump challenges the team to design modern offices. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Close, 7.00 Film: The Long Voyage Home. **(C4) 8.45** Life in a Cold Garden, with Carol Klein. **(R) 9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Cooking with Rachel Khoo. **(R)** **12.00** EastEnders. **(R) 1.50** Coast. **2.00** Great British Food Revival. **2.30** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapade. **3.45** Flap It! **(R) 4.15** Flight of the Rhine: Nature World. **(R) 5.15** A History of Ancient Britain: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. **(R)** **6.15** Ski Sunday. The men's World Championship giant slalom from Schladming in Austria. **7.00** **Food & Drink.** Michel Roux Jr and Kate Goodman are joined by Mary Berry, who joins them to create the perfect afternoon tea and Rachel Khoo celebrates the patisserie in Paris. **(R)** **7.30** Open All Hours. Comedy, starring Ronnie Barker. **(R)** **8.00** Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson puts the new Kia Cee'd through a peculiar road test. Richard Hammond drives the Mastretta MXT, and three high-performance hatchbacks are tested on the track. **9.00** **Wonders of Life.** Professor Brian Cox travels around Australia to explore how the size of a creature is connected to the physical forces acting on its environment. **10.00** Dancing on the Edge. Louis tells the police he saw Julian at the night of Jessie's attack. **(R)** **11.05** Film: In the Valley of Elah. **(2007)**. **1.00** Sign Zone: Holby City. **(R)** **2.00** Being Eileen. **(R) 2.30** Close.

ITV

6.00 CITV. Handy Manny. **6.10** Handi-Manny. **6.25** The Big Movie. **(R)** **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.45** Dino Dan. **(R) 9.05** Almost Naked Animals. **(R) 7.15** Almost Naked Animals. **(R) 7.30** Almost Naked Animals. **(R) 7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **(R) 8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** The Big Game. **8.45** The Audition. **8.55** The Game. **9.00** The House Guest in the Sun. **(R)** **10.25** 60 Minute Makeover. **(R)** **11.30** Live FA Cup Football. **2.15** ITV News; Weather. **2.30** You've Been Framed: Top 100 Animals. **(R)** **3.30** Live FA Cup Football. **6.05** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.10** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.15** **Dancing on Ice.** The six remaining skaters are split into two groups with the most impressive squad having their judges' scores doubled. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley present. **7.45** **All Star Family Fortunes.** With actress Catherine Tyldesley and presenter Andrea McLean. **8.30** **Don't Let the Fatigues Off.** The two lowest-scoring couples battle it out. **9.00** **Mr Selfridge.** Arthur Conan Doyle persuades Harry to hold a seance in the store. **10.00** **ITV News at Ten;** Weather. **10.15** FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from today's three fixtures. **11.15** **Perspectives: Looking for Lowry.** Ian McKellen examines the life of artist LS Lowry. **(R)** **12.15** Premiership Rugby Union. **1.20** The Store. **3.05** Monk. **(R)** **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)** **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **(R)**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. **(R) 6.35** The Hobbit. **(R) 7.05** Hall & Grace. **(R) 7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.25** Frasier. **(R) 8.55** Frasier. **(R) 9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 1.05** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 1.30** Maggie Simpson in London. **2.15** The Simpsons. **(R) 2.05** The Simpsons. **(R) 2.35** Film: Panelope. **(2006)** **6.20** Time Team. **5.20** Deal or No Deal: Hollywood Heartthrobs. **6.20** **Channel 4 News.** **6.50** 4Thought. **n/a** **6.55** **The Political Slot.** Croydon North Labour MP Steve Reed talks to his constituents. **7.00** **The Year Britain Flooded.** Documentary recalling the appalling weather across the nation in 2012, when high levels of rainfall brought flooding to towns and cities and led to the wettest summer in a century. **(R)** **8.00** **The Hotel.** Mark needs a buyer before the end of summer and tries to close a deal with a local hotel magnate, while Alison agrees to take on the role of manager temporarily. Last in the series. **9.00** **Complaint.** An MI6 officer believes a terrorist suspect he has been monitoring for three years is planning an imminent attack in the UK. Feature-length drama, with David Oyelowo and Archer Ali. **10.55** **Film: True Lies.** **(1994)** Action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **1.30** Al Murray: My Funniest Year. **(R) 3.20** 4FunFest. **1.30** Rubberbandits. **(R) 3.50** Smallville. **(R) 4.30** Deal or No Deal. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Road to the Racing Car. **(R) 6.15** Film: The Polar Express. **(R) 6.25** Mr. Bean. **(R) 6.30** The Mr Men Show. **(R) 6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **(R) 6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **(R) 7.00** Roobarts and Custard Too. **(R) 7.10** Banana in Pyjamas. **(R) 7.20** Animal Antics. **(R) 7.25** Film: The Way of the Ninja. **(R) 7.40** Out of Friends. **(R) 7.55** Little Princess. **(R) 8.05** Mit Mao. **(R) 8.10** The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. **(R) 8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 8.40** Milkshake! Monkey. **(R) 8.45** Rupert Bear. **(R) 9.00** Film: The Little Kingdom. **(R) 9.15** Trolls Travelling Circus. **(R) 9.30** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 9.45** Jelley Jamm. **(R) 10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **(R) 10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. **(R) 11.20** Monkey Life. **(R) 11.50** Once Upon a Time. **(R) 12.00** Film: Rock-a-Bye Baby. **(R) 1.50** Film: My Dog Skip. **(2000)** **3.40** Film: Daddy Day Care. **(2003)** **5.25** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. **(1994)** **6.55** 5 News Weekend. **7.00** **Film: Ghostbusters.** **(1984)** Supernatural comedy, with Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver. **9.00** **Person of Interest.** Reese helps a teenager whose brother was killed. **10.00** **Film: The Godfather.** **(2002)** Guy Ritchie's comedy drama, with Jason Statham, Brad Pitt, Benicio Del Toro, Mike Reid and Jason Flemyng. **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. **(R) 1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. **(R) 4.25** Divine Designs. **(R) 4.50** County Secrets. **(R) 5.00** Hanna's Helper. **(R) 5.15** The Milkshake! Show. **(R) 5.35** Thomas & Friends. **(R) 5.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 11.45** Film: Mad Max 2 **(1981)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Let's Dance for Comic Relief **8.00** Film: National Treasure: Book of Secrets **(2007)** **10.00** Being Human **11.00** People Like Us **BBC Four** **7.00** The Story of British Pathe **8.00** Harlots, Housewives & Heroines: A 17th Century History for Girls **9.00** Film: The White Ribbon **(2009)** **11.15** The Beatles' Please Please Me - Remaking a Classic **ITV2** **3.45** Film: Toy Story 2 **(1999)** **5.35** Film: Jurassic Park **(1993)** **8.00** Very Best of You've Been Framed! **9.00** Film: Fast & Furious **(2009)** **11.10** Film: Gremlins **(1984)** **ITV3** **3.30** Lewis **3.35** Murder, She Wrote **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.55** David Jason: The Battle of Britain **10.00** Film: The Pianist **(2002)** **ITV4** **3.45** Film: Every Which Way But Loose **(1978)** **6.00** Film: Invitation to a Gunfighter **(1964)** **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Year of the Dragon **(1985)** **11.45** Film: Mad Max 2 **(1981)** **E4** **3.45** Revenge **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **6.35** New Girl **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Film: Night at the Museum **(2006)** **10.15** What Happens in Kavos **11.15** My Mad Fat Diary **5.20** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad **(1958)** **4.35** Five Children and It **(2004)** **6.25** Big Fish **(2003)** **8.50** A Good Day to Die Hard **1.00** Special **9.00** Die Hard 2 **(1990)** A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia. **11.25** Four Brothers **(2005)**

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

A Perfect Getaway, Channel 5, 11pm
Newlyweds travel to Hawaii for their honeymoon and go on a hiking expedition to a remote beach along with another couple. However, after hearing stories of a murderous pair stalking the island, they begin to suspect their travelling companions might have sinister plans for them. Thriller, with Milla Jovovich, Steve Zahn, Timothy Olyphant and Kiele Sanchez. (2009)

TUESDAY

The Breakfast Club, BBC1, 11.55pm

Five teenagers who occupy different areas of their school's social structure are thrown together for a Saturday morning detention. During the day, they analyse their behaviour and find unexpected common ground. Drama, starring Emilio Estevez, Judd Nelson, Molly Ringwald and Anthony Michael Hall. (1985)

WEDNESDAY

Rounders, BBC1, 11.40pm

A gifted young poker player gives up gambling when he loses all his savings and turns his attention to studying the law. However, when an old friend is released from prison with substantial debts to worry about, he is persuaded to return to the world of high-stakes poker. Drama, starring Matt Damon and Edward Norton. (1998)



Three Kings, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

The Magdalene Sisters, BBC1, 11.35pm

Four young women are sent to a Catholic institution. Two have been rejected by their families for getting pregnant, one has been raped by her cousin, and the other has been thrown out of an orphanage. Made to feel acute shame and disgrace, the girls are put to work in slave labour conditions and endure mental and physical cruelty at the hands of the nuns in charge. Drama, with Geraldine McEwan, Anne-Marie Duff. (2002)

FRIDAY

Three Kings, ITV, 10.35pm

Four US soldiers stumble upon a fortune in Kuwaiti bullion in the aftermath of the first Gulf War – but agonise over whether to steal the hoard from under the noses of the impoverished local people, who are in desperate need of help. David O Russell's adventure, starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. (1999)

Pretty Woman, BBC1, 11.25pm

A millionaire hires a prostitute while on a business trip. Realising she may be useful in helping him keep up a successful appearance, he pays her to accompany him for a week as he associates with the rich and powerful – but falls in love despite their many differences. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. (1990)

Pick of the Week

Stars shine bright in a night of celebration

Some things have become inevitable at annual British awards bashies in recent years.

Ant and Dec will pick up Best Entertainment Presenter at the National TV Awards; Corrie's Michelle Keegan takes home Sexiest Female at the British Soap Awards, and James Corden will host the Brits.

There are still a couple of months until Michelle's next award is announced, but there's no surprise to find James back on presenting duties for Brit Awards 2013.

This week he does his best 'tailor-made' suit, and makes a 'swift' commute in 'one direction' to London's O2 arena. Chances are he'll get there 'just in time', and if the 'muse' inspires him, will deliver a few witty one-liners to camera. And those are just a few tenuous clues to who'll be performing here.

But enough of such Alan Partridge-style seques (though they are arguably no worse than Sam Fox and Mick Fleetwood's script from the 1989 Brits debacle). What you really want to know is who's in the running for the latest star-studded gong show.

Well, like 2012's opening and closing Olympics ceremonies, this year's awards could turn into 'The Brits Sande Show' if one of the most amiable singer-songwriters in the business scoops an armful of gongs. Aside from performing, she's up for Best British Album of the Year, British Single, and British Female Solo Artist.

However, Emeli is facing stiff competition from the brilliantly eccentric Paloma Faith in the Album and Female Artist category.

Like Ms Sande, fellow Brit performers Muse also gave a blinding performance at London 2012. Will they win over the voters in the British Live Act category, or will it be tonight's other acts, Mumford and Sons, pip them, and fellow nominees The Rolling Stones, Coldplay and The Vaccines, to the post?

That remains to be seen, but there's a good chance Paul Epworth may go home with a gong as British Producer of the Year. His work on the *Skyfall* theme landed an Oscar nomination, and with the only other runners in that category being Damon Albarn and Jake Gosling, the one-in-three odds aren't bad.

Adele's James Bond track is also in the running for Best British Single, along with Robbie Williams' Candy.

The Take That veteran will be belting out a tune at the O2, and if it's a well known track, will no doubt be asking the audience to fill in the blanks while he catches his breath.

X Factor winner James Arthur is also in with a chance of taking home a gong in that category thanks to his debut smash, Impossible.

Who wins what? Well there's only one way to find out as Mr Corden welcomes hundreds of celebs, record industry types, along with previously alluded to mega stars One Direction, Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake.

With high street record shops almost permanently consigned to the 'Where Are They Now?' file, online retailers are expecting a spike in sales once the winner of the British Album of the Year Award is announced.

All are hoping An Awesome Wave washes away the competition, Mumford & Sons' Babel, Plan B's III Manors, Ms Sande's Our Version Of Events, and Paloma's Fall To Grace.



James Corden hosts the Brit Awards 2013, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Her Majesty's Prison – Aylesbury, ITV, 9pm

Aylesbury Prison in Buckinghamshire houses some of Britain's most dangerous criminals, including murderers, rapists, gangsters and paedophiles. One in five are serving either life or indeterminate sentences to protect the public. But perhaps most worryingly of all, even the oldest inmates are still only 21. This eye-opening two-part documentary goes behind the scenes to discover how prison officers are trying to help the young men rebuild their lives. But it's not just rehabilitation that poses a problem – there are also outbreaks of violence and simmering gang rivalries to deal with. One jailbird claims he quite likes it when a fight breaks out as it makes the day go quicker, but unsurprisingly the staff take a very different view.

Speidi: Scandal, Secrets & Surgery! – Channel 5, 10pm

Fans of MTV's *The Hills* will remember the Heidi Montag of old; down-to-earth, career-driven, and a loyal friend to reality telly star Lauren Conrad. But all that quickly changed and seemed to coincide with Heidi's blossoming relationship with new boyfriend Spencer Pratt. These days, 'Speidi' are something of a brand, cashing in on their 'fame' wherever they can; so much so that it's argued they're the most loathed celebrity couple in the States. This one-off film features interviews with the Big Brother runners up, and contributions from those who have surrounded them, and reveals the truth behind their marriage, the bankruptcy and all that plastic surgery (Heidi had 10 surgeries in one day).

TUESDAY

Live UEFA Champions League – ITV, 7.30pm

Europe's premier club competition continues tonight with this last-16 first-leg match between Arsenal and Bayern Munich at the Emirates Stadium. After finishing second in Group B, Arsene Wenger's men will enter this tie as underdogs against the German giants, who topped the Group F table by virtue of their superior head-to-head record against Valencia. Having performed inconsistently away from home so far in this season's competition the Gunners will look to gain an advantage ahead of the return leg next month.

The Fried Chicken Shop: Life in a Day – Channel 4, 9pm

Are you a leg or a breast person? It's perhaps not the kind of question you could get away with in too many social situations – unless you happen to be in a shop that sells chicken-related products. According to this documentary, Brits have gone bonkers for something that was once regarded as part of the staple diet of America's southern states – fried chicken. Here we get to see what life is like both behind and in front of the counter at a fast food outlet selling the stuff in Clapham, south London. Expect to see a real cross section of British life walk through the shop doors in a one-off programme that promises to be finger-lickin' good.

WEDNESDAY

NCIS – Channel 5, 9pm

While a new crew canvass opinion on the huge amount of money about to be spent on warships, one man is so spooked by a camera being pointed in his face, he is seriously injured after running into the path of an oncoming van. The plot thickens when local cop Danny Sportelli (Jack Conley), who was called to the scene, walks into NCIS HQ to tell Gibbs (Mark Harmon) he's found a professional hitman nicknamed The Cooler. He was responsible for at least six contract killings and had been living in suburbia under the name Paul Ariss. What is it about an old Cary Grant film that gives McGee (Sean Murray) a clue to cracking the case?

THURSDAY

Jack Taylor: The Guards – Channel 5, 9pm

As classic detective drama Chinatown is one of his favourite films, Game of Thrones' Iain Glen jumped at the chance of playing an Irish private eye in the first of three mysteries. And there's no shortage of genre ingredients in the first of three mysteries for the eponymous crime-buster.



Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Esther Rantzen, Friday, ITV, 9pm

A beautiful protagonist? That'll be Anne Henderson (Tara Breathnach). The case? She wants Jack to find her missing daughter. Somebody has already killed four girls, and when Taylor's paratrooper friend Sutton (Ralph Brown) washes up in Galway, too, our hero is lured to the dark side to crack the case before anyone else meets a sticky end.

FRIDAY

Room 101

BBC1, 8.30pm

Jon Richardson is a man with a meticulous attention to detail, so he was spoilt for choice when asked if he'd like to take part in this show. One of the single comedian's many bugbears is friends who are settling down, and the fact that he's never going to see them again unless their marriage breaks up. Actress and fellow guest Sheila Hancock admits she's not a huge fan of 21st-century fireworks. During the last of the series, we also see what winds up Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Esther Rantzen, ITV, 9pm

These days, Esther Rantzen may not be as starry or famous as Cheryl Cole, Gordon Brown or Elton John, but she's a fascinating woman – so she should make a great guest for Piers as his chat show returns. Here she discusses her rise to fame, from lowly clerk in the BBC programming department to household name thanks to a 21-year stint as presenter of *That's Life!* However, her lasting legacy may turn out to be ChildLine, the first national helpline for children in danger or distress.

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Some of the highlights of the exhibition include a wall painting of the baker Terentius Neo and his wife (as shown above); a gold bracelet in the form of a coiled snake, 1st Century AD, Roman Pompeii; and a Carbonised wooden cradle.

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AT A time when love is in the air, research has revealed that deep down we are first and foremost a nation of home-lovers at heart.

An independent study carried out for national home-builder Taylor Wimpey revealed that nearly 70 per cent of people still aspire to own their own home, with one in three ranking it more important than getting married, having children or building a career.

The UK is continuing its long-standing love affair with home ownership, as almost half (46 per cent) of those surveyed said they were prepared to scrimp and save for a deposit and one third (34 per cent) would go without luxuries to afford mortgage payments.

"There really is no place like home," says Elaine Taylor, sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey West Midlands.

"Owning your own home isn't just about practical benefits such as a secure long-term investment and freedom from landlords. Studies have shown that homeowners are more satisfied with their lives and happier than those in rented accommodation and when you look at the many advantages of buying your own home, it's not difficult to see why."

"A home is probably the most expensive investment you'll ever make, and it's important

to make the right decision to ensure it's a match made in heaven."

"Choosing a new home over a second-hand property could save you thousands on DIY, maintenance and improvements, not to mention ongoing savings in areas such as fuel bills. Add to this the different financial incentives and assistance packages we can offer, and the benefits really do start to add up. With the housing market showing signs of recovery and house prices predicted to rise, it really is time for us all to fall in love with our homes again."

Incentives

Taylor Wimpey currently has a number of developments across Birmingham, Telford, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire offering a wide range of homes and incentives designed to help purchasers make the move into a new home.

The Government-backed NewBuy scheme has seen an increase in the availability of 95 per cent loan to value mortgages specifically for new-build properties, meaning credit-worthy buyers may now only need to save a five per cent deposit to secure their new home.

Alternatively, selected Taylor Wimpey homes at participating developments can be purchased by qualifying first-time buyers for 80 per cent of their full price under FirstBuy, while easymover

and part exchange are among the incentives available for those with a property to sell. All incentives are subject to availability and full details can be obtained from the sales executive.

Elaine adds: "One of the many advantages of a new-build property is that we can offer the incentives and flexibility which allow potential purchasers to buy their new home with much lower deposits. Government-backed schemes such as NewBuy are really helping to get the housing market moving again and turning aspiring buyers' dreams of home ownership into a reality."

Further details about Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by calling 0121 703 3400 or visit www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmidlands

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COPPICE OAK, WILLENHALL Five/Six Bedroom Executive Detached. Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Study (bedroom) 6 Bathrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, C/Heating/D/Glazing, Double Garage, Driveway And Generous Garden, Private Gated Access. P/Ex Cons. £329,950	WOOD LANE CLOSE, SHORT HEATH Super Three Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow Comprising Of Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Shower Room, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Detached Garage. £249,995	CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Extended Four Bed Detached Property Set On A Large Plot, Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor WC, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Garage, Majority D/Glazing, C/Heating, Vehicle Access To Rear. £239,995	MILL LANE, WILLENHALL Spacious Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Hallway, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Guest Cloakroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Large Driveway. £227,950	COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Semi Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms To The First Floor, Family Bathroom, Loft Bedroom, Garage, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Driveway. £159,995	CEDAR PARK RD, NEW INVENTION ***** OPEN VIEWING ***** ** SAT 16TH FEB 2013 ** *** 11.00AM- 12.00PM *** MUST VIEW £149,995	ALBION RD, W-HALL Large Victorian End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Four Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway. £149,950	JOHN RILEY DRIVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Detached Property, Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage And Gardens. The Property Also Benefits From C/Heating and D/Glazing. £144,995
FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage. £134,995	KESTREL GROVE, COPPIE FARM Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Refitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Both With Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Half Garage/Store Area And Driveway. £132,995	PEACH ROAD, WILLENHALL Immaculate Two Bed Semi, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Both With Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Central Heating, Front And Rear, Garden Must View! Canal Access. £132,000	LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION Immaculately Presented Extended Semi Detached Having Spacious Hallway, Through Lounge, Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room, Double Glazing, Central Heating & Block Paved Driveway, Cul-De-Sac Location. £129,995	BALMORAL DR, NEW INVENTION Spacious Semi Having Entrance Porch, Through Lounge/Diner With Patio Doors, Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms, Additional Loft Room, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Central Heating & Block Paved Driveway, Popular Location, NO CHAIN! £129,995	OAK ROAD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Through Lounge/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking. Sought After Location, NO CHAIN! £129,995	RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Well Presented Two Bed Traditional Semi Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. £124,995	CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage And Off Road Parking. £124,995
FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Double Length Driveway, Large Rear Garden, Popular Location. £119,995	REDuced	ALMOND AVE, BENTLEY Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom, Refitted Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £109,995	CHATSWORTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom, Refitted Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £109,995	GRIFFITHS DR, ASHMORE PARK Recently Refurbished Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Generous Rear Garden With Vehicle Access. £105,000	HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL Modern Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W/C, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden. £103,995	CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented End Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Spacious Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking, Cul-De-Sac Location, Ideal First Time Buy! £99,995	ROCHESTER CROFT, REEDSWOOD Well Presented Modern Two Bed Mid Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing And C/Heating, Rear Garden, Integral Garage And Off Road Parking. Requires Improvements, Great First Time Buy Or Investment! NO CHAIN! £99,995
FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
KENNEDY CRESCENT, DARLASTON Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Good Sized Bedroom, First Floor W.C, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking. £94,500 ONO	FOR SALE	ORCHARD RD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Cottage Style Two Bed Mid Terrace Having Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Ground Floor W.C, Master Bedroom With Fitted Furniture, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Large Rear Garden, Cul-De-Sac Location. Must View. £92,995	LET YOUR PROPERTY FOR ONLY £199 with 8% full management or £249 tenant finder fee only		FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
FOR SALE	FOR SALE	REDuced	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
BROADWATERS RD, DARLASTON Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, Three Double Bedrooms, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Double Length Driveway For Two Vehicles, Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles, Large Rear Garden, Workshop, Ideal Investment Or FTB. £87,995	FOR SALE	LIME AVENUE, BENTLEY Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Porch, Spacious Hallway, Ground Floor WC, Three Double Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Family Bathroom, Warm Air Heating, UPVC Single Glazed Windows, Front & Rear Gardens, NO CHAIN. £84,995			FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
REDuced	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	TENANTS Register your details free so we can update you of current properties available for rent.		FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
WESTERN AVENUE, BENTLEY Spacious Three Bed Mid-Town House Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Ground Floor WC, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Front And Rear Gardens, Ideal First Time Buy Or Buy To Let! £82,000	REDuced	TEMPLE RD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, First Floor Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front And Rear Gardens. £79,995			FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	CALL NOW: 01902 606 595 www.prestige-estatesuk.com email: info@prestige-estatesuk.com 46 High Road • Lane Head • Willenhall WV12 4JQ			FOR SALE	FOR SALE

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Bloxwich
Lichfield Road
● Extended Four/Five Bed Semi-Detached
● Three Reception Rooms
● Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
● Attic Bedroom ● Integral Garage
● Off Road Parking

£240,000



Bloxwich
Vernon Way
● Two/Three Bed Detached Bungalow
● One/Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen ● Bedroom with En-Suite
● Shower Room ● Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £225,000



Bloxwich
Fishfield Road
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Fully Refurbished ● Two Reception Rooms
● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Conservatory
● Utility Room/WC ● Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden ● Garages & Workshop

In the Region of £199,000



Bloxwich
Lytham Grove
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen
● Cloakroom W.C. ● En-Suite
● Solid Timber Flooring ● Family Bathroom
● Conservatory ● Integral Garage

£188,000



Eslington
Albany Grove
● Four Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Extended Kitchen ● Conservatory
● Family Bathroom ● Front & Rear Gardens
● Carport & Garage ● Driveway

In the Region of £180,000



Bloxwich
Selston Road
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen ● Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom ● Front & Rear Gardens
● Garage & Off Road Parking

In the Region of £175,950



Willenhall
Crab Lane
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached
● Through Lounge/Diner ● Kitchen
● Ground Floor Shower Room
● First Floor Shower Room ● Utility Room
● Garage & Off Road Parking ● Gardens

Offers in excess of £175,000



Willenhall
Longwood Rise
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge ● Kitchen/Diner
● Family Bathroom ● Gardens
● D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Driveway & Off Road Parking ● Garage

£159,950



Walsall
Leamore Lane
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Kitchen/Diner ● Study ● Cloakroom W.C.
● First Floor Lounge ● Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room ● Gardens
● Detached Garage

In the Region of 145,000



Bloxwich
Harrison Street
● Victorian Three Bedroom End-Terrace
● Kitchen/Diner ● Study ● Cloakroom W.C.
● Utility ● Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
● Guest W.C. ● Front & Rear Gardens
● Cellar ● D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £139,950



Bloxwich
Well Lane
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge/Diner
● Family Bathroom with separate W.C.
● Integral Garage ● Front & Rear Gardens
● Large Driveway

Offers in excess of £130,000



Walsall
Smiths Flour Mill
● Two Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge ● Integrated Kitchen
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing
● Allocated Parking
● Family Bathroom

Offers in excess of £125,000



Willenhall
Balmoral Drive
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Large Lounge/Through Room
● Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
● Garage & Off Road Parking
● Gardens ● Double Glazing

In the Region of £125,000



Walsall
Wavell Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Utility/Storage Area
● Downstairs W.C.
● Newly Fitted Family Bathroom with Shower
● Majority Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Front & Rear Gardens/Off Road parking

£119,995



Bloxwich
Grantown Grove
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge ● Kitchen ● Fitted Bathroom
● New Enclosed Garden
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £116,950



Bloxwich
Raymond Close
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge/Through Kitchen
● Shower Room ● Separate W.C.
● Integral Garage ● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £115,000



Willenhall
Squires Grove
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room
● Double Glazing
● Electric Heating
● Allocated Parking
● Communal Grounds

In the Region of £110,500



Bloxwich
Beehive Street
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Front Lounge ● Rear Sitting Room
● Breakfast Room/Study ● Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom ● D.Glazed/ Central Heating
● Gardens with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £110,000



Bloxwich
Beeches Road
● Two Bedroom Semi Detached
● Lounge ● Kitchen/Diner
● Utility ● Family Bathroom
● Large Rear Garden ● Off Road Parking
● Corner Plot with room to extend

Offers in excess of £105,000



Bloxwich
Henley Close
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge ● Extended Kitchen
● Dining Room ● Family Bathroom
● Gardens ● Garage & Driveway
● Part Gas Central & Double Glazing

Offers in excess of £105,000



Walsall
Parsons Way
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge ● Bespoke Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room ● Family Bathroom
● Gardens ● D.Glazing & Central Heating
● Large Storage Unit to Rear

In the Region of £99,950



Walsall
Blowick Lane
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge ● Through Kitchen/Diner
● Rear Extension ● Bathroom ● Garden
● Block Paved Driveway to the Front
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £95,000



Bloxwich
Bell Tower Close
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Open Plan Lounge/Diner ● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom ● Communal Grounds
● Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating
● Allocated Parking ● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £87,500



Willenhall
Squires Grove
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room
● Double Glazing
● Electric Heating
● Allocated Parking
● Communal Grounds

In the Region of £85,000



Bloxwich
Bagnall Street
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge ● Kitchen ● Guest W.C.
● Bathroom ● Conservatory
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway

In the Region of £85,000



Bloxwich
Pershore Road
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge ● Dining Room
● Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
● Double Glazed ● Central Heating
● Rear Garden ● Off Road Parking

In the Region of £84,950



Bloxwich
Booth Street
● Extended Three Bedroom Semi
● Lounge & Dining Room ● Kitchen
● Garage ● Off Road Parking
● Rear Garden ● Gas Central Heating
● Part Double Glazing ● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £80,000



Walsall
Miner Street
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
● Farm House Style Kitchen ● Lobby/Storage
● Rear Courtyard ● Enclosed Rear Garden
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £80,000



Willenhall
Tennyson Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge ● Kitchen ● Lobby/Storage
● Bathroom ● Separate W.C.
● Partial Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating ● Gardens

In the Region of £76,000



Willenhall
Argyll Court, Essington Road
● Three Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
● Secure Communal Entrance
● Communal Grounds
● Secure Allocated Parking

In the Region of £66,950

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ROWAN DRIVE, ESSINGTON
ROWAN DRIVE
• Super four bedroom extended modern detached residence
• UPVC double glazed conservatory
• Two reception rooms
• En-suite shower room
• Well equipped kitchen inc. Energy Performance Rating 'D'
NOW £299,950



COPPIE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE
• Superb extended five bedroom modern detached property
• Substantial garage/boutique garden with Koi pool & pergola
• Two reception rooms
• Office/occasional bed 6
• WAS £289,950, NOW £279,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• Energy Rating 'C'



COPPIE FARM
LOCHALSH GROVE
• Modern style detached family residence
• Four bedrooms
• En-suite shower room
• Garage and dining rooms
• Bright kitchen and
• WAS £193,500 NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £189,995
• Energy Performance Rating 'D'



HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL
HIGH ROAD
• Spacious four bedroom modern style detached residence
• Garage and off road parking
• Generous rear garden
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing recommended
• Energy Performance Rating 'D'
• En-suite shower room
NOW £185,000



WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE
• Spacious traditional detached property
• Two reception rooms
• Separate breakfast kitchen
• Large rear garden with conservatory
• Off road parking
• Energy Rating 'D'
WAS £190,000, NOW £185,000 NO CHAIN



NEW INVENTION
ESSINGTON ROAD
• Brand new development of two detached bungalows
• PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED
• Two bedrooms and fitted bathroom
• Rear garden
• Offers in excess of £160,000
£169,995



NEW INVENTION
GLAMIS ROAD
• Pleasantly appointed link detached property
• Three bedrooms
• Fitted Kitchen
• Gas central heating, Double glazed windows
• Two reception rooms
• Offers in excess of £160,000
£169,995



WANTED
MISS D WOULD LIKE A TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY ON COPPIE FARM UP TO £130,000 CALL RACHEL



CRAB LANE, NEW INVENTION
CRAB LANE
• Detached two/three bedroom link detached bungalow
• Two reception rooms
• Upstairs bathroom with shower
• 20ft side garage
• Private established rear garden
• Energy Efficiency Rating 'F'
£159,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL
PRINCEBORPE ROAD
• Superbly appointed spacious modern town house
• Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
• Juliet balcony
• Lounge, dining kitchen with en-suite rear garden
• Energy Rating 'C'
£154,995 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



WILLENHALL
LAKESIDE CLOSE
• Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
• Three bedrooms
• En-suite shower room
• 18ft front lounge
• Offers in excess of £149,950
£149,950 OFFERS



WANTED
MR/S P ARE LOOKING FOR A 3/4 BEDROOM DETACHED IN HONEYBOURNE WAY UP TO £210,000 CALL RACHEL



COPPIE FARM
MILES MEADOW CLOSE
• Pleasantly appointed modern style link detached property
• Fitted kitchen and dining room/study
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Gas central heating
• Two reception rooms
• Offers in excess of £140,000
£140,000 OFFERS



WANTED
MISS C WOULD LIKE A 2/3 BEDROOM PROPERTY IN BENTLEY OR DARLASTON UP TO £95,000 CALL RACHEL



SNEYD PARK
CEDAR PARK ROAD
• Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
• Three bedrooms
• Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
• Lounge and dining rooms
• Fitted kitchen
• Refitted bathroom with white suite
• Private garden
• Energy Rating 'D'
£139,950



OFF OVERDALE DRIVE, WALSALL
CONDOWER CLOSE
• Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
• Three bedrooms
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Two reception rooms
• WAS £139,950, NOW £137,500 NO CHAIN



SUMMER HAYES
FARBROOK WAY
• Pleasant semi detached property
• Three bedrooms
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Lounge and fitted kitchen
• Utility room/study
• Upstairs bathroom with shower
• 26ft side garage, off road parking
• Attractive rear garden
• Energy Rating 'D'
£130,000 OFFERS



HADLEY HEATH
CROXLEY GARDENS
• Extended modern style semi detached property
• Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Lounge and fitted kitchen
• Utility room/study
• Upstairs bathroom with shower
• Generous rear garden
• Energy Rating 'E'
£125,000 OFFERS



SHORT HEATH
POOLE'S LANE
• Extended semi detached property
• Three bedrooms
• Gas central heating system
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Two reception rooms
• Generous rear garden
• Block paved driveway
• Energy Rating 'D'
• WAS £20,000, NOW £118,500
£120,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



WILLENHALL
BARMOUTH CLOSE
• Pleasant semi detached property
• Three bedrooms
• Gas central heating system
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Two reception rooms
• Fitted kitchen
• Upstairs bathroom with shower
• Front and rear gardens
• Potential to improve
• Energy Rating 'D'
WAS £20,000, NOW £118,500



WILLENHALL
SHERLOCK CLOSE
• Pleasantly appointed modern style and town house
• 26ft side garage with bay in workshop
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• UPVC double glazed conservatory
• Offers in excess of £113,000
£113,000 OFFERS



WANTED
MISS W WANTS A 2/3 BEDROOM PROPERTY ON FOREST GATE UP TO £110,000 CALL NIKKI



BENTLEY, WALSALL
CUNNINGHAM ROAD
• Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
• Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
• Gas central heating system
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Lounge and fitted kitchen
• Utility room/study
• Upstairs bathroom with shower
• Generous rear garden
• Energy Performance Rating 'D'
£110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



WANTED
MR P IS LOOKING FOR A FOUR BED DETACHED ON COPPIE FARM UP TO £225,000 CALL NIKKI



WILLENHALL
HILL ROAD
• Much improved extended three bedroom property
• Large extended dining room
• Fitted breakfast kitchen
• Bathrooms with shower
• Garage and block paved driveway
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Convenient location
• Energy Performance Rating 'E'
WAS £112,500, NOW £109,950



BENTLEY
WREXHAM AVENUE
• Extended traditional style semi detached property
• Two reception rooms
• Three bedrooms and bathroom
• Double glazed windows
• WAS £109,950, NOW £107,000 NO CHAIN



HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
FAWCLEY CLOSE
• Pleasantly improved modern style semi detached property
• Two bedrooms
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Lounge with feature fireplace
• Fitted bathroom with shower
• Utility room/study
• Attractive enclosed rear garden
• Energy Rating 'C'
£103,000



WANTED
MISS T IS LOOKING FOR A TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY ON COPPIE FARM UP TO £110,000 CALL NIKKI



WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE
• Excellent modern style semi detached property
• Planning permission granted for side extension
• Two bedrooms
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Fitted bathroom with shower
• Pleasant 13ft front lounge
• Enclosed rear garden
• Energy Rating 'D'
OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £96,000



NEW INVENTION
TAVERNS CLOSE
• Pleasant one bedroom modern style semi
• Extended dining room
• Fitted bathroom with shower
• Lounge and separate dining/sun room
• Fitted kitchen
• Garage and block paved driveway
• Gas central heating
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Energy Rating 'D'
£87,950 OFFERS



WILLENHALL
CLOTHIER STREET
• Spacious Victorian style end terrace property
• Two reception rooms
• Upstairs bathroom
• Two reception rooms
• Kitchen
• WAS £86,000 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL
LISTER STREET
• Three bedroom mid terraced property
• Double glazing
• Gas central heating
• Two reception rooms
• Kitchen
• WAS £94,950, NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN



WALSALL
MOORSIDE GARDENS
• Pleasant spacious first floor flat in well built modern property
• Two bedrooms
• Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
• Lounge with feature fireplace
• 14ft lounge
• Fitted kitchen
• Ground floor bathroom
• Pleasant size bedrooms
• Pleasant garden to the rear
• Energy Rating 'C'
£78,950 OFFERS



DARLASTON
PINFOLD STREET
• Lovely one bedroom ground floor flat in convenient location
• Communal gardens and allocated parking
• Fitted kitchen
• Lounge with feature fireplace
• Lounge with feature fireplace
• Fitted kitchen
• Ground floor bathroom with shower & separate WC
• Pleasant rear garden with outside store
• Energy Rating 'C'
£59,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



DARLASTON
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET
• Spacious first floor flat in convenient location
• Two bedrooms
• Gas central heating system
• UPVC double glazed windows
• Energy Rating 'D'
OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £53,000, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL ALBION STREET

- Superb end terraced property
- Convenient location
- Spacious lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms

£139,000 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL SQUIRES GROVE

- Superb Coach House apartment
- Lounge with dining area
- Impressive kitchen
- Two excellent size bedrooms
- Bathroom

£110,500 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL BOSTON ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Gas central heating
- Garage, driveway
- Viewing recommended
- Energy Rating 'TBC'

WAS £175,000 NOW £169,950

WILLENHALL TYLER ROAD

- Improved traditional style mid terraced property
- Lounge
- Refitted dining kitchen
- Downstairs wc

£82,000 NO CHAIN

SUMMER HAYES FENN RISE

- Spacious link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms & dressing room

WAS £154,950, NOW £150,000

WILLENHALL ALTON AVENUE

- Three bedroom double fronted traditional semi-detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted breakfast kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility room & downstairs w.c. fitted shower room

WAS £148,995, NOW £144,950 NO CHAIN

WEDNESFIELD PEACH ROAD

- Superb semi-detached property - UPVC double glazing & gas in ceiling floor to ceiling
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WAS £132,00, NOW £129,950



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- Energy Rating 'E'

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WILLENHALL PRINCETHORPE ROAD

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- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Good size rear garden
- Driveway & rear garden
- Energy Rating 'C'

£125,000

				
<p>NEW INVENTION BALMORAL DRIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleasant three bedroom semi detached property Gas central heating Majority UPVC double glazing Through lounge/dining room Three bedrooms Store room/playroom Pleasant rear garden with patio area and decking Energy rating 'D' <p>OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £125,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY ATTLEE ROAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended semi detached property Three 1st floor bedrooms Ground floor extended bedroom Large bathroom 19ft through lounge <p>£125,000</p>	<p>WOLVERHAMPTON ACKLETON GARDENS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downterraced cloakroom with wc. Fitted kitchen and adjacent lobby Pleasant rear garden Gas central heating, part UPVC double glazing windows Energy Rating 'D' <p>WAS £114,950, NOW £109,950 NO CHAIN</p>	<p>DARLASTON MEMORY LANE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much improved semi detached bungalow Two bedrooms Refitted kitchen Spacious lounge Refitted bathroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refitted bathroom Off road parking Gas central heating, Double glazing Energy Rating 'D' <p>£99,950</p>	<p>WILLENHALL VICTORIA COURT, GRANVILLE STREET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superbly appointed ground floor corner apartment Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobe Open plan lounge/dining kitchen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedrooms Storage heating Double glazing 23ft garage, garden to the side Energy Rating 'C' <p>£87,500 NO CHAIN</p>
				
<p>WILLENHALL REGENT STREET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period and terraced property Two reception rooms Kitchen and breakfast area Double glazing, gas central heating Two bedrooms, one with en-suite Energy Rating 'E' <p>£87,000 NO CHAIN</p>	<p>WILLENHALL BILSTON LANE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spacious and terraced property Two bedrooms Gas central heating Part UPVC double glazed windows <p>OFFERS OVER £80,000 IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE</p>	<p>WOLVERHAMPTON WILLENHALL ROAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid terraced property Upstairs bathroom with shower Fitted kitchen & downstairs wc Three good size bedrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathroom Double glazing Gas central heating Gardens to front & rear Energy Rating 'D' <p>£77,500 NO CHAIN</p>	<p>COPPIE FARM COTSWOLD GROVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spacious ground floor flat Two double bedrooms Large lounge, kitchen Parking to the fore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage heating THE OVER 55's Communal gardens Energy Rating 'D' <p>£75,000 FOR 70% SHARED OWNERSHIP, NO CHAIN</p>	<p>WILLENHALL COTSWOLD GROVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground floor flat in popular location Over 55's development Lounge, kitchen One bedroom Bathroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double glazing, storage heating No chain Energy Rating 'E' <p>£49,950 for 70% shared ownership</p>

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Willenhall



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EPC C

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Willenhall



EPC E

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A three bedroom end terrace property situated in a popular location, offered with no upward chain.

Wednesbury



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A two bedroom top floor apartment situated in a modern style development. Well presented and offered with no upward chain.

Willenhall



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Motoring

Special MG6 is getting ready for big accident mercy dash

A SPECIALLY equipped MG6 GT is on front line life-saving duties answering emergency calls.

MG's Sales Centre is helping FastAid volunteers in the West Midlands to respond to life-threatening incidents. FastAid is a group of highly trained Community First Responders who support West Midlands Ambulance Service by attending 999 calls in their area.

The MG6 GT has a distinctive diamond grade livery so that it can be clearly seen, even at night, travelling to the scene of an accident.

Inside the car is fitted with an ambulance service radio and carries a vital automated external defibrillator which is critical to saving patients who have suffered a cardiac arrest.

Specialist

Bulky equipment needed by the Community First Responders is carried in the huge boot of the MG6 GT fastback. Richard Jay, vice chairman of FastAid, said: "The cargo space in the MG6 is enormous and allows us to carry all of our specialist equipment with ease."

Ashley Almqvist, a FastAid volunteer, highlighted another standard feature of the MG6 GT SE which had proved extremely valuable to answering emergency calls – the built-in satellite navigation system.

He said: "The screen is so clear, the maps are really good and it's easy to use.

"It can save us vital minutes when we are responding to an urgent call when someone's life could depend on us getting to the scene quickly."

The FastAid MG6 will mainly operate in the greater Birmingham and Solihull areas of the West Midlands where the charity was set up eight years ago. It costs up to £2,000



Simon Bennett, left, hands over the keys to Ashley Almqvist

to train and equip each FastAid responder. Andy Jeynes, the West Midlands Ambulance Service Community Response Manager, said: "We are extremely grateful to the MG Sales Centre for supplying the MG6. It's already proved its worth on several call outs when the speed of response, and being able to arrive on scene with the right kit, is crucial.

"Without the support of local companies and organisations, such as the MG Sales Centre, we wouldn't be able to keep doing what we do in our local communities."

Simon Bennett, a sales executive at the MG Sales Centre in Lowhill Lane, Longbridge, said: "We're very proud that our local community first responders are saving lives in one of our cars.

It's about giving something back to the community we live in and we hope that our support helps FastAid to continue the excellent work it does."

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*Conditional sale. **Korando S including VAT, delivery charge, Road Fund Licence & first Registration charge. Model featured is a Korando S at £17,495 including optional metallic paint at £500. Price is correct at time of going to print, but may be modified or changed at any time. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be age 18 or over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. T&Cs apply. GMAC Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Finance offer available until 30.04.13 on 2011 (MY). *Payable in addition to first monthly payment. **Payable in addition to final monthly payment.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Attention to detail is a key part of Astro's success



Some of the vehicles lined up at Astro Van Centre

Van-tastic milestone for family-run firm



The family-run Astro Van Centre, in Chase Road, Brownhills, which is celebrating its 20th year in business

A COMMERCIAL vehicle dealership in Brownhills is celebrating its 20th year in business – and it is not hard to see why it has stood the test of time.

Astro Van Centre, on Chase Road, has weathered the tough economic climate by offering a balance of low prices and high standards.

And proprietor Stuart Tromans says the third-generation family business also has its customers to thank for the company's longevity.

He said: "The fact we are still here in this difficult time is thanks to our customers and our ability to adapt to the modern marketplace.

"We are still an independent, family-

owned business and we are now the longest-established commercial dealer in the area by far. We aim to provide main dealer product at vastly reduced prices."

The business supplies vans and other light commercial vehicles to fleets, sole traders and every size of business in between.

Experience

It specialises in late-year, low mileage vans, including the Peugeot Bipper, the Renault Kangoo and the Citroen Dispatch, to name but a few.

Mr Tromans, who has more than 30 years' experience in the motor trade, with both independent and main dealerships, said: "Mostly our stock is still under manufacturer's warranty, and

we provide excellent after-sales, servicing and value for money."

Mr Tromans also understands that his customers are feeling the pinch in today's financial uncertainty.

He said: "We are finance specialists who, with the aid of our finance partners, can tailor a package to suit our customers' needs. We can even help if others sometimes cannot and we will always do our best."

The company has established links with a major lease company that now supplies most of its vehicles, which are prepared to main dealer standard.

"This gives the company access to more than 2,000 vehicles and staff can arrange their transportation and financing directly to the customer for their convenience.



Stuart Tromans hard at work in his office at Astro



Astro specialises in late-year low-mileage vans

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£7597 £37pw



61 PEUGEOT BIPPER 1.4 S 24k, CD, ABS, 5-dr, top economy

£5980 £29pw



11 PEUGEOT BIPPER 1.4 HDI S+ PROFESSIONAL one owner, air con, e/window, s/door, 18k

£6165 £30pw



11 FIAT SCUDO 1.6 HDI 90PS LIHI White, 17k, e/window, CD, c/lock, twin side doors

£8265 £39pw



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£4483 £26pw



60 RENAULT KANGOO LL21 85- CREW VAN Silver, 5 seat, air con

£6445 £38pw



10 RENAULT KANGOO SL19 1.5 DCi 70 White, 29k, s/door, CD

£5396 £21pw



10 PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.6 HDI 90PS Long wheel base, 91k, ply lined, twin doors

£5495 £32pw

61 PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDI SE 3-dr, 3 seater, e/windows, CD, ABS, side door, 19k	£7597	£37pw
61 PEUGEOT BIPPER 1.4 S 24k, CD, ABS, 5-dr, top economy	£5980	£29pw
61 PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDI SE 3 seat, 23k, FSH, one owner, full electric, 5-dr	£7520	£36pw
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60 PEUGEOT BIPPER 1.4 S 38k, CD, PAS, superb economy	£4483	£26pw
60 RENAULT KANGOO LL21 85- CREW VAN Silver, 5 seat, air con	£6445	£38pw
10 RENAULT KANGOO SL19 1.5 DCi 70 White, 29k, s/door, CD	£5396	£21pw
10 PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.6 HDI 90PS Long wheel base, 91k, ply lined, twin doors	£5495	£32pw

11 FIAT FIORINO 1.3 S 26k, Side Door, PAS, c/lock.....	£5127	£24pw
11 NISSAN PRIMASTAR 2.0 SE (115) 21k, e/window, c/lock.....	£8985	£43pw
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10 RENAULT KANGOO SL19 1.5 DCi 70 White, 29k, s/door, CD, c/lock, PAS, superb economy	£5396	£21pw
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59 FIAT FIORINO 1.3 SX White, 30k, e/window, c/lock, ABS	£4685	£28pw
08 FIAT DOBLO 1.9 ACTIVE CREW VAN 5 seat, 95k	£2995	£22pw
58 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI CREW VAN 5 seat, 60k, one owner, FSH	£4295	£25pw
58 FIAT DOBLO 1.9 ACTIVE CREW VAN 5 seat, 90k	£3295	£24pw
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58 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI CREW VAN 5 seat, 60k, one owner, FSH

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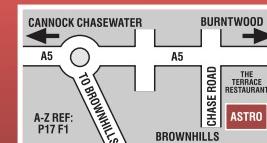
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Danger, pedestrians ahead – Volvo continues its Vision 2020 mission



Safety in the cab – Volvo Car Corporation still leads airbag development

Motorists put safety on roads as priority

THIRTY years after the introduction of the mandatory seatbelt law, and over 50 years since Volvo first developed the three-point seatbelt, the Swedish carmaker continues to lead the way with innovative safety technology working towards its Vision 2020 that nobody will be killed or seriously injured in or by a new Volvo by 2020.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the mandatory seatbelt law, and over 50 years since Volvo first developed the three-point seatbelt, the Swedish carmaker continues to lead the way with innovative safety technology working towards its Vision 2020 that nobody will be killed or seriously injured in or by a new Volvo by 2020.

The report revealed that despite major steps in road safety technology, most – 60 per cent – do not believe safety innovations can wipe out road traffic accidents in the near future.

The law came into force on January 31 1983 and it has been estimated this legislation has saved over 60,000 lives over that period.

The poll of 1,148 drivers also found:

- Many would welcome a range of safety innovations on vehicles with over a quarter saying they would like a car that drives itself.
- More than half would be happy to be driven by autopilot.
- 45 per cent would like to see pedestrian protection technology on all cars.
- Over half want all round cameras fitted to vehicles.
- Interestingly, only a third of drivers believe speed limits on motorways should be increased because of these improved safety features.

Manufacturer

Volvo continues its market-leading approach to passive and active safety technology being the first manufacturer to introduce its auto-braking City Safety system as standard across all cars in the all-new V40 range.

City Safety, a low-speed collision avoidance system operates at speeds of up to 31 mph on the V40, keeps an eye on traffic in front and automatically brakes if the driver fails to react in time when the vehicle in front slows down or stops – or if the car is approaching a stationary vehicle too fast.

Detection

Features such as pedestrian detection where cars automatically brake when sensing pedestrians ahead, the world's first pedestrian airbag and even autopilot convoy driving where cars link together to drive themselves in special motorway 'road trains' are already being used or tested by Volvo and the manufacturer hopes to start rolling out this technology in the next few years.

Volvo UK's Managing Director Nick Connor said: "Volvo has a fantastic safety heritage at the forefront of innovative technology having clocked up several world firsts including the debut of the pedestrian airbag on the all-new V40 launched last year."

"As a nation of sceptics, it is perhaps not surprising that the majority of British motorists think the introduction of vehicles which make accidents virtually a thing of the past is not possible but I have every faith in Volvo to prove them wrong!"

Volvo first introduced the two point cross-chest belt as an accessory in 1956 followed by the 3-point belt in the front as standard equipment in 1959.

Three decades of research and development means predictions of auto-piloted, self-driving, crash-proof cars on our roads by 2020 may not be all that farfetched despite the doubts of the majority of motorists surveyed.

Volvo invests heavily in safety research with its unique safety centre in Gothenburg carrying out hundreds of simulated crash scenarios each year and a dedicated safety team that visit the site of any road incident involving a Volvo within 50km to collect real world data.

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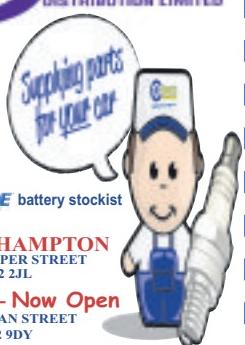
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JULIE cute blonde blue eyed 5ft female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older, confident male, 40-55yrs with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833

JO attractive 30's Brunette who loves life. WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401591

TRACY slim blue-eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401579

CLARE 38, single mum, curly hour glass, loves to be tactile. OHAC, WLTM caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

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I'M Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves ITC and looking for similar solvent male for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401467

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls. WLTM interesting appreciative, independent man for it. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed TLC with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

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Aldridge fall short in battle of the boot

St Leonard's 12pts
Aldridge 6pts

WITH both sides attempting to consolidate their league positions in Midlands 5 West, this encounter was never going to be a festival of open rugby.

The two sets of forwards slogged it out to the end, trying to gain an ascendancy but at the final whistle neither side had produced much more than a sniff at the opposition's try line.

The cutting edge of both back lines was denied by a paucity of ball and solid defence.

So, with no clear-cut chances it all came down to a penalty shoot-out.

Two from home side full-back Will Redpath and a riposte from Aldridge centre Ben Drinkwater gave St Leonard's a 6-3 lead going into the interval.

Aldridge scrum half Chris Jones levelled things up five minutes into the second period.

But dissent from the visitors, resulting in a yellow card and ensuing penalties, prised the door open for the home side.

Two more penalties from the boot of Redpath gave them the lead and the result.

Football results

Lichfield & Walsall League

Ask Motors Premier: ASP Victoria 4 Pelsall Villa Colts 3, Erdington Star 1, Burntwood St. Matthews 3, Lichfield 6, Burntwood Shrewsbury 1.

Midlands 5 West League One: Rushall FC 3, Russey Arms 0.

Stretton Paving League Two: Brownhills Comets Colts 3, London Chet 4, Ros Park 2, Dosthill Rangers 2.

Compton, Baginton Area 2: Kris, Shifield Park 2, Bowman 16, Burnwood Dragons 2, 2, Railway Tavern 3, Cellar Door 2.

Jack Donnelly Cup: Trent Valley Rovers 2, Burntwood Dragons 4.

Lichfield & Walsall Cup: Burntwood AFC 1, Farmer John's 0.

Danny Donovan Cup: Prince of Wales 7, AC Lions 3.

Glen Skett Cup: Freemaine B 3, Duke of Wellington 1, Paradise Lounge 1, Green Rose 1.

Walsall Junior League

Under 9 Division 1: Dave Broadhead Shield: DDC Colts 0 Sutton Utd Juniors 0, Premier 3 Wyrely Tigers 2, Wednesfield 1, Shifield 4, Bedworth Juniors 1, Crosswells 1, Wyrley 2.

Under 11 Division 1: Crosswells Wdrs 2, DDC Colts 3, Sutton Utd Juniors 2, Premier 4, Wednesfield 3, Bewicks Juniors 1, Division 3: Joe Whittaker Shield: Blowers Ringers 2, Barr Hatters 1, Blowers Throstles 2, Shire Oak Raiders 1, Wyrley Panthers 1, Tipton Young Lions 4, Wyrley Wolves 3, Brownhills Comms, Colts 0, Shire Oak Raiders 1, Division 4: Linnets, Linnets, Barr Hatters 2, Silverdale 1, Crosswells 2, Wyrley Panthers 4, Wyrley Wolves 4.

Under 13 Division 3: Premier 1, Shine Opticians Bullets 3, Churchill Trophy Group C: Pelsall Villa Colts 1, Crosswells Wdrs 6.

Under 15 Festive Trophy Group C: Portobello Ringers 8, Chasetown 1, Group D: Park Hill 2, Bentley Com 9.

Under 16 Sid Gutteridge Cup Final: Whittington Shires 2, Pelsall Villa Colts 1.

ACTION HEART 5 'HEART RUN' ENTRY FORM

Sunday, February 24, 2013

Name.....	Address.....
Estimated finish time.....	Age on day.....
State whether runner or walker.....	Sex (M/F).....
Date of birth.....	
Club (if any).....	
Telephone No.....	
Email address.....	

I declare that I am medically fit to run and understand that I take part entirely at my own risk. I declare that I am an amateur as defined by the UKA. I agree to abide by the current laws and rules of competition of the UKA. I will be 15 or over on the day of the event.

Signed.....Fee paid.....
(to be signed by parent/guardian if under 18)
Date.....

Final week of preparation



THE big day is almost here with the Action Heart five-mile run taking place on Sunday, February 24.

The event starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital (start time 9.30 am) and Action Heart is hoping to raise £12,000 to develop the service provided through its Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme at Russells Hall.

We have now reached the seventh and final week of the training programme for beginners and the schedule is shown below. Remember, proper warming up and cooling down is absolutely essential to prepare your body for prolonged exercise and should never be missed.

Some of you may find that increasing

the mileage has led to possible aches and pains.

If you do suffer from a running injury, no matter how slight, do not try to push it – take time out – listen to your body and do not try to 'run-off' those little niggles or strains. By taking an extra rest day you will be better prepared to carry on with the schedule.

There are no entries on the day of the event.

Training: Week Five

Monday: Rest

Tuesday: Three-mile jog

Wednesday: Four-mile jog

Thursday: Rest

Friday: Two-mile jog

Saturday: Rest

Sunday: Action Heart five-mile run.

Walsall closing fast on the leading pack

Doncaster 1 Walsall 2

ARE Walsall going to be the surprise package in the race for promotion?

Each season there is one side that comes on the rails almost unnoticed. And after a blistering start to 2013 and victory at the joint-leaders, why not the in-form Saddlers?

Saturday's 2-1 win at Doncaster was Walsall's eighth victory in 10 games since ending that 16-game winless streak.

It kept them ninth, four points from the top six, and preserved their tag as the country's form team. One more win will hit the 50-point survival target set at the start of the season and then ambitions will quietly shift.

Andy Taylor insisted afterwards the players were not "taking themselves too seriously" in terms of making the play-offs.

That in itself is a good sign, the relaxed nature of the squad will undoubtedly help when the pressure starts to build.

Serious

But should they emerge unbeaten from games with promotion contenders Notts County and Brentford in their next two outings they will have to get serious.

The three matches – Doncaster, County and Brentford – were always going to be the test of the Saddlers' credentials and staying power; a trio of clubs battling for the play-offs and promotion against Walsall, who are in such good form. And they passed their first test with the kind of grit and panache associated with sides who can last the pace.

They are still outsiders – others have games in hand and the financial clout to make the difference – but there is a case to be made. They will soon emerge from under the radar should the form continue and expectation will rise from outside of the group. It is then where different pressures impact and, while they have dealt with the problems at the bottom, it remains to be seen if the young squad can cope with the



Heading for victory – Andy Butler sets Walsall on the way to victory against Doncaster at the Keepmoat Stadium as he climbs to head home Saddlers' first goal



Walsall's James Baxendale heads for goal as he puts the Doncaster defence under pressure

added strains at the top. Thoughts of relegation were banished weeks ago and boss Dean Smith must now deal with this situation.

It continues to be a testament to the manager's approach which never faltered while panic and unfair criticism emanated from the stands during the difficult autumn months. This time, though, the 480 travelling fans chanted 'we are staying up' at least three months earlier than they are used to.

Smith deserves their support and there will be some sheepish looks from those who bizarrely felt a change was needed earlier in the season. The manager remains level-headed but after six wins from seven games this year he deserves the credit.

And fortune favours the brave. Smith's decision to throw on Craig Westcar for extra presence up front in the second half changed the game. Since scoring after just

70 seconds through Andy Butler's close-range header Walsall had been under pressure.

Billy Paynter's 16th minute leveller – from an offside position after Chris Brown's knockdown – had hauled Rovers back into the game and they forced Walsall back.

Taylor's free-kick and Febian Brandy's volley aside, the Saddlers struggled to assert themselves against a side who could have gone clear at the top with victory.

Defensively, though, they excelled with Butler outstanding and Paul Downing growing with every game, proving why he signed a new deal last week. When they were breached Ian McLoughlin saved David Cotterill's free-kick immediately after the break as Rovers threatened before the tide turned.

The Saddlers were holding firm but West-

car's introduction offered an outlet and allowed Febian Brandy and Jamie Paterson to flourish.

Suddenly, Doncaster couldn't deal with the duo as Westcar, who is yet to score for the Saddlers, became the focal point. He was introduced after Cotterill hit the bar and Rob Jones missed the rebound but it was Rovers' last serious chance.

The exceptional Sam Mantom and Adam Chambers snapped at Rovers as they took the advantage in the middle and began to boss the game. Paterson, who became increasingly influential, and Taylor fired off-target while Mantom was twice denied by Gary Woods. But it was left to Brandy to seal it nine minutes from time when he bamboozled two defenders, jinked into the area and rifled past Woods at the near post.

They can't, can they?

Wrestling back with plenty of shouting

PRO wrestling is back in Walsall on Friday – by popular demand!

Not since the golden television era of stars such as Wolverhampton legend Kendo Nagasaki, Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks, has wrestling enjoyed such popularity, and it seems the Black Country is at the heart of this resurgence.

Matt "Mad Dog Maxx" Powell, of Walsall, said: "I wrestle all over the UK and crowds are great, but in the Black Country they are just that little bit louder, that little bit more enthusiastic, it really is fast becoming the hotbed of pro wrestling here."

The 28-year-old will be wrestling at the Saddlers Club, Banks's Stadium.

"Being from Walsall it always makes me proud to wrestle at home, in front of my family, friends and hometown fans, but now it's extra special with wrestling gaining that extra kick of popularity," said

Another wrestler on the show is "Psycho" Shane Stevens, who competed on ITV's World Of Sport wrestling many times, to fame in the 80s.

Doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 or £17.50 for a family of four. Call 07938 000 598 for details

Wood are on track for glory

LEADERS Wood Green A continued their march to the Walsall and District Tennis League Divison One title.

Wood eased their way to 8-2 victories over Wood Green C and Wood Green D.

Second-placed Vic Park B remain unbeaten after defeating both Wyrley C and Wyrley A 8-2.

Wood Green B netted two wins, 6-4 at Wood Green C and 8-2 against Wood Green D.

Pete Moriarty and Ken Walton were in excellent for Albrighton, with both unbeaten in an excellent 7-3 victory at Wyrley A.

Paul Mayatt was unbeaten for Vic Park A in their 8-2 win at Albrighton.

The final closing date for entries for the annual tournament on March 3 is February 16.

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SPORT

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Walker stars for the Pics

Chorley 1 Rushall 6

DAVE WALKER led the way as Rushall found their touch in front of goal.

Walker netted four times to fire the Pics, who had drawn a blank in their previous two clashes against Northwich and Stockbridge, eased to victory.

Ahmed Obeng fired Rushall in front before Josh Craddock smashed a 30-yard strike past Jack Cudworth in the 30th minute.

Chorley rallied after the restart and netted when Tom Ince's free-kick was cleared but Andy Russell fired in the rebound.

That was followed quickly by Walker's first as he practically sealed the win before Chorley boss Garry Flitcroft could write his half-time notes.

In the second half, Walker fired home after Cudworth's foul on Obeng and the hitman grabbed his hat-trick from the penalty spot after 61 minutes.

The Magpies tried to rally but Walker's fourth ended the argument four minutes later as he superbly finished a one-on-one effort.

The victory extended Rushall's unbeaten run to five games.

Hockey

Baldwin's a headline act at Bloxwich

Bloxwich Mens 1st 6

Stafford 1

HAT-TRICK Adam Baldwin grabbed the headlines as Bloxwich's first team turned on the style against Stafford.

The hosts started well and opened the scoring when Adam Baldwin beat the keeper in a one-on-one after a through ball from Edward Marocco.

Bloxwich continued to press and Adam Baldwin was on hand to make it 2-0 following a fine team move.

Stafford responded and reduced the deficit when they netted from a short corner.

Bloxwich scored again on the stroke of half-time with Gary Williams finishing off a short corner.

Dan Stathem finished off a great move to make it 4-1 before Matt Baldwin set up his brother Adam for his hat-trick.

A first goal from left-back Jack Phillips wrapped up a good day and the win for Bloxwich.

Adam Baldwin was voted man of the match.

Saddlers soar

Smith's men continue their impressive run

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e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Ryan is aiming to follow in Gethin's footsteps

by Dan Mole

WALSALL'S Joel Ryan is taking inspiration from British champion Martin Gethin ahead of his own title fight for the Midlands welterweight crown next month.

Gethin, Walsall's favourite boxing son, won the belt last month and the young protege is hoping for his own slice of glory at Burton Town Hall on Friday, March 1.

The 22-year-old takes on Derby's Luke Gallear for the vacant title and trains out of the same gym as Gethin, Errol Johnson's Wednesbury Boxing Academy.

Ryan is now hoping to emulate his stablemate, saying: "I would love to have the career Martin has had and one day win a

British title. He's a great fighter and a really nice lad. He's quiet and does his talking in the ring. That's how I am."

"I know I have got a long way to go but my dream is to follow in Martin's footsteps, starting with this Midland title."

Ryan, who has four wins and three defeats on a seven-fight record, hasn't boxed since his narrow points defeat to Chris Higgs for the British Masters title last June.

Gallear has been more active, fighting three times in 2012, but with mixed results. The 28-year-old beat Jason Nesbitt in April,

drew with Matt Seawright in July but then lost against debutant Tony Dixon in December.

The pair's records suggest it has the makings of a real 50-50 fight, but Ryan is confident of recording a much-needed victory to kick-start his pro career.

He said: "I'm looking forward to it. I haven't fought for a while and I need to get back out there. I have done plenty of sparring and am in good shape but I need to be fighting more regularly."

"My aim is to win this fight and be more active in 2013. Luke is a decent boxer and people tell me he's a nice lad. We will both be

going for it, so it's going to be a good fight."

Tickets for the Errol Johnson-promoted show in Burton are priced at £30 unreserved seating and £50 ringside. They are available from the Town Hall Box Office on 0128 350 8547.

Doors open at 7pm, with boxing commencing at 8pm.

Meanwhile, Bloxwich light welterweight Luke Paddock, will be in action at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on March 9.

"Cool Hand" Paddock makes his second appearance as a professional having beaten Matt Seawright in a gruelling battle on points at the same venue in November.

Ruthless Lockmen are on fire

Wyreley 1 Willenhall 8

WILLENHALL hit the goal trail as they breezed into the next round of the JW Hunt Cup.

Lower league opponents Wyreley were no match for the ruthless Lockmen as Jake Morgan and Jordan Siviter both netted twice.

Morgan opened the scoring on three minutes with a close-range finish.

Craig Oldfield added a second when he hammered a 25-yard strike into the top right-hand corner.

James McKenzie's shot was blocked on 23 minutes but Calum Haynes made it 3-0 from the rebound.

Siviter then headed home from a corner three minutes later.

Wyreley reduced the deficit when Mick McMahon despatched a cross into the corner of the net.

Willenhall responded on 49 minutes when Liam Morris made it 5-1.

McKenzie and Sean Pugh both missed a couple of good chances before Siviter headed his second and Willenhall's sixth.

Phil Bowater turned the ball into his own net for Willenhall's seventh before Morgan wrapped up the scoring on 81 minutes.

Wood have lost home comforts

WALSALL WOOD must take their bid to reach the FA Vase quarter-finals on the road.

Wood's fourth-round tie against Hanworth Villa was postponed again on Saturday and now they have now lost home advantage.

The clash will now be played on Saturday at the home of their west London-based opponents (3pm).

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FANS' CHANCE OF A PLACE IN HISTORY

WALSALL are offering supporters a chance to write their name in the club's history.

Saturday's superb win at Doncaster added to the feelgood factor on the pitch but Saddlers are now offering supporters a set of great incentives in their latest Early Bird season ticket promotion.

Walsall celebrate their 125th anniversary next season and fans who take up an Early Bird deal will automatically gain membership of the 1888 Club and have their names engraved on a new monument at the Banks's Stadium to mark the milestone.

The club are also continuing to offer free football for under-18s.

Saddlers pioneered the scheme two years ago with young supporters offered £2 cashback for every home league game they attend.

Any of the Saddlers Crew members who qualified for free football last year but are too old this around, can have a season of paying half-price to help bridge the gap.

The 2013/14 Early Bird promotion runs from March 1 until April 6 with an adult ticket in the Tile Choice Stand costing £235 compared to the full price of 15.

A family ticket of one adult and one junior costs £361 and senior citizens can get £215 for the Five Rivers and Tile Choice stands.

Saturday's win at high-flying Doncaster will have left some fans dreaming of watching Championship football next season.

Goals from Andy Butler and Fabian Brandy clinched an eighth win in 10 games for Dean Smith's in-form side as they continue to climb the table.

But the boss is continuing to play down his side's prospects of reaching the play-offs. He said: "We're still under the radar. "We'll just keep going and

by Nick Mashiter

we don't change. The players aren't rushing in there to look at the other results.

"What we're doing is enjoying and savoring the moment. You don't often go on runs like this – eight wins in 10 – and I'm proud and pleased for them.

"The hard work we're putting in is paying off.

"The lads play without pressure anyway – apart from the pressure they put on themselves to do well for each other and the team.

"There's a really good atmosphere about them."

Meanwhile, Smith is continuing his search for an assistant to replacement for David Kelly.

The ex-Walsall striker left the club after just nine days as No.2 when he re-joined Billy Davies at Nottingham Forest last week.

"There are a lot of people out of work and a lot of good coaches who have been in contact.

"I have got to sit down and see what we've got," he said.

"I've been inundated again but I'm not sure whether the assistant managers don't like me or we just pick really good ones who people from higher leagues snatched off us."

Becky is off on a Euro mission with England

YENDYS' hot-shot Becky Tildesley has hit the heights after netting an England call-up.

The 16-year-old goal-shooter will be heading to Malta next month for a Netball Europe event following her selection for the national Under-17 squad.

England face Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales in the championship event while the host nation square up to Switzerland and Gibraltar in the development group.

The England call has capped an impressive rise through the ranks for Becky, who started playing when she was 10.

She has represented South Staffs at Under-14 and 16 level and earned a place in the West Midlands Regional Academy.

Becky, who attends Stourbridge College, plays in the National Talent League for West Midlands Warriors while she turns out for Walsall-based outfit Yendys in the regional league.

And netball is very much a family affair for the Tildesleys with Becky's twin sister, Laura, playing alongside her for the County, Warriors and Yendys while the girls' mum, Kerry, plays and coaches for Oldbury.

"It's a great achievement and we are all very proud of her," said Kerry.

"I can take some credit for getting both Becky and Laura involved in the sport, but I have to admit they are far better than their mum!"



Yendys' goal-shooter Becky Tildesley, aged 16, has earned a call-up for the England Under-17 netball team for next month's Netball Europe tournament in Malta

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